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Saturday, October 24, 1998

Turkey, Israel sign new missile-building deal

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey and Israel signed a military accord to build a new type of ground-to-air missiles for \$80 million, the Turkish daily Sabah reported Saturday. The accord, which is part of a wider framework agreement on military cooperation between the two countries reached in 1996, was signed last week by Turkish and Israeli defence companies in Ankara, said the paper. There was no official confirmation on the report. Military cooperation between the two nations attracted much criticism from Arab countries, particularly Syria, Egypt and Iran which interpreted the alliance as a direct threat, a charge denied by Turkey and Israel. Under the new accord, the Israeli firm Rafael, which produces Popeye missiles, will team up with Turkish firms to manufacture a more sophisticated version of the weapon, said Sabah.

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King receives officials, phones Albright

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Saturday at his residence in Washington in the presence of HRH Prince Hanzeh Jordanian officials and personalities who called on the King to get reassured on his health. The King received former prime ministers Abdul Salam Majali and Abdul Karim Kahant, Royal Court Chief Jawad Anani and senior Royal Court officials. The King also received in the presence of HRH Prince Abdullah and Prince Hamzah Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirza Kaabneh and an accompanying military delegation. At the meetings, the King reaffirmed that he is in good health and enjoying high morale. Also Saturday, the King telephoned U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to thank her for her role in reaching the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington on Friday. Albright in return voiced her country's appreciation of the King's role in pushing forward the peace process.

MIDEAST PEACE DEAL

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat were poised to sign a peace deal on Friday after nine days of talks in the U.S.



Netanyahu Arafat

Though the deal is new, its components are all issues the sides agreed to resolve under past interim deals but never did

MAIN POINTS OF THE DEAL

- Palestinian militants suspected of attacking Israeli targets would be arrested and kept in jail
- Agreement on the collection and removal of "illegal weapons" in the Palestinian autonomous areas
- Systematic release of 750 Palestinian prisoners and formation of a committee to discuss the release of thousands more
- Elimination of anti-Israel language from the Palestinian National Covenant
- percent of West Bank territory
- Israeli commitment for third phase troop redeployment
- Agreement over a major Palestinian airport in Gaza
- Guaranteed passage between Gaza and Israel by two routes

Jordanians take pride in King, laud his role in concluding Wye accord

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Jordanians of all walks of life on Saturday expressed deep pride and admiration over His Majesty King Hussein's crucial role in the conclusion of the Palestinian-Israeli Wye accord despite his illness.

"The whole world looks with appreciation and much admiration to what His Majesty has done," Prime Minister Fuyez Tarawneh told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Saturday.

"Jordanians, who as always are proud of King Hussein's stature and achievements, feel proud today, and pray to God to protect King Hussein and return him to his safe and in good health," Tarawneh was quoted as saying.

Since late July the King has undergone four of six scheduled courses of chemotherapy at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for a B-cell lymphoma.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat signed a land-for-peace security deal on Friday after a nine-day marathon summit at the Wye Plantation, in Maryland.

The King, who has always mediated between Palestinians and Israelis and was the inspiration behind the 1997 Hebron accords, flew by helicopter twice to the site of the talks.

He resolved an eleven-hour glitch which threatened to stall the negotiations, by convincing Netanyahu not to link the release of

an American Jewish spy currently imprisoned in the U.S., Jonathan Pollard, to the interim deal.

Netanyahu, Clinton, Arafat, and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright all paid tribute to the King at the White House signing ceremony for being "at the heart" of the deal, while the audience of diplomats and officials gave him a long, warm, standing ovation.

"No matter where I would have been, if I had an ounce of strength, I would have done my utmost to be there and to help in any way I can," the King replied.

Here on Saturday, a number of officials joined ordinary citizens in voicing their deep respect, love and admiration for the King.

Lower House Speaker Sa'd Havel Srour paid tribute to the King's

efforts which he said contributed in a direct manner towards the conclusion of the Wye agreement.

"The Lower House is proud of the King's courage and his readiness to do all he can in support of Palestinian people's rights," Srour said in a statement to Petra.

"Parliament stands fully behind the King in his efforts, which aimed at bringing about comprehensive peace."

Former Foreign Minister and Director of the Institute of Diplomacy, Kamel Abu Jaber said the King's role in bringing the Palestinians and Israelis' views closer was instrumental in helping the two sides reach the agreement.



(Continued on page 7)

Israel braces for settler protests

Agencies

TEL AVIV — Israeli leaders braced themselves on Saturday for a wave of settler protests against their interim peace agreement with the Palestinians.

As Israel's opposition Labour Party has pledged its parliamentary support for the Wye River agreement negotiated by ruling Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, Jewish settlers said they will try to bring Netanyahu's government down.

Settlers will block roads all over the West Bank on Sunday morning to protest against the deal signed by Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Friday, said Yehudit Tayar, a spokeswoman for the Yeshia Council of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

Tayar told Reuters: "It delivers the fabric of a Palestinian state to Arafat's hands. It's a lot more than just 13 per cent, it's the entire direction that he [Netanyahu] stood firm on."

"It's like a house of cards, he [Netanyahu] collapsed totally," Tayar said. The Yeshia Council planned to hold an

emergency meeting on Sunday to discuss its strategy in fighting the peace accords.

"There is a very great likelihood that as diligently as we tried to elect Netanyahu to office, we will exert at least as much effort to make sure the Netanyahu government falls," she said.

But Labour leader Ehud Barak reassured Netanyahu by saying: "The government can rest assured that it has a safety net of approval for the agreement and we will support any advance along the road to peace."

Barak, who was speaking to Israeli television late Friday, was referring to the possibility of parliamentary defections from Prime Minister Netanyahu's fragile ruling coalition.

Netanyahu has only a single seat majority in the 120-member parliament, the Knesset, and a number of far-right-wing members of his coalition have denounced the land-for-peace agreement he signed at the White House on Friday.

While pledging Labour support in the Knesset, Barak also accused Netanyahu of "polarising" Israeli-U.S. relations

by threatening to walk out of the talks on Wednesday and linking the signing of the deal at the last-minute to the release by Washington of an Israeli-American spy, Jonathan Pollard.

The United States refused to release Pollard, a former U.S. navy analyst who is serving a life sentence in a North Carolina prison for spying for Israel, but said it would review his case.

Yossi Sarid, head of the left-wing Meretz Party, told Israeli television that the talks at Wye River had opened a divide between Israel and its traditional ally the United States "which is being filled by Palestinian-American rapprochement."

Sarid added that the agreement showed that Israel's right wing had "abandoned its nationalist ideology once and for all and acknowledged the principle of dividing land" between Israel and the Palestinians.

He also warned that the agreement "will not be easy to implement because it depends on too many conditions."

(Continued on page 7)

Musa plays down differences between Amman, Damascus

Egypt offers to mediate to reduce tension

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Saturday said his country was ready to exert efforts to reduce tension between Amman and Damascus following a war of words between the two countries.

Musa, on a two-day visit, played down differences between Jordan and Syria.

During his meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, which was expected to take place in Amman late Saturday, Musa was due to hand over a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral relations and recent developments in the region.

"The tension between Syria and Turkey is of a different nature than that you have described as tension between Jordan and Syria," Musa said in response to a question as to whether Cairo will exercise the same effort it did to end the stand-off between Damascus and Ankara.

"Egyptian diplomacy is always keen to improve the general Arab atmosphere. We shall do whatever we can in that direction," the minister added.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the deal will be easy to implement if both parties have goodwill.

The accord will be "easy to enact if (both parties) demonstrate goodwill," said Mubarak, who added that implementing the agreement was of the utmost importance.

Mubarak, quoted by Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif, said that "from the moment the Palestinians accepted, we rejoiced."

added.

"The most important matter is to contain the differences [among Arabs] in order to prevent any division among them," Musa said following talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khalti.

Last week, Information Minister Naser Judeh said that tension between Amman and Damascus, that erupted following a statement by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass questioning Jordan's role in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, will be discussed during Musa's visit to Jordan.

His visit to Jordan comes one day after the signing of an agreement between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators in the White House, breaking a 19-month impasse in peace talks.

Asked whether Israel can be trusted to implement the new agreement which they signed with the Palestinians on Friday, Musa said: "Let us wait and see, every thing depends on the implementation."

"The agreement is a step in the right direction as long as it leads to Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territories," the minister said.

"It is not a question of a document signed. But a question of true and faithful implementation. Of course we had our doubts about the direction of the Israeli policy concerning the peace process," Musa said.

He added that the new agreement will pave the way for the final status negotiations "where the two sides will discuss more important and risky issues such as Jerusalem, refugees, borders, self-determination and the full withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

"Things have reached a critical stage which we all [Arabs] should take care of to reach our goal, namely, the establishment of a Palestinian state," the minister said.

"Israeli policy will regain some trust which might lead to a breakthrough in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. All this depends on the restoration of trust and implementation [of the agreement] to reach a real peace with Arabs."

Khalti said that he and Musa discussed the agreement reached between the Palestinians and the Israelis which he described as "positive development."

(Continued on page 7)

World leaders hail Wye accord amid Arab scepticism

Agencies

WORLD LEADERS on Saturday hailed the Wye River land-for-peace accord as a triumph of political courage and diplomacy, but many in the Middle East charged the deal was a humiliating surrender of Palestinian rights.

Under the deal signed Friday at the White House, Israel will withdraw from another 13.1 per cent of the West Bank in exchange for concrete steps by the Palestinians to dismantle armed activist groups and fight anti-Israeli violence.

But some charged that defects in the accord would simply re-direct that violence into a deadly Palestinian civil war.

The Wye River agreement will "lead to bloody conflict, enabling the Netanyahu government to achieve its goals of turning the Palestinians against each other," said the English-language Syria Times.

"Any move by the PNA of Arafat to arrest resistance men or to crush resistance movements will turn the Palestinians against each other — and that is exactly what Israel targets," it said.

The leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which is opposed to the peace process and has claimed responsibility for attacks that have left scores of Israelis dead over the past few years, vowed Friday that the agreement would not stem Palestinian resistance.

"Hamas will remain a resistance movement and all those who think they can put an end to our activities are deluding themselves," Sheikh Ahmad Yassin warned.

A coalition of Palestinian opposition groups including Hamas on Saturday mean-

while called on resistance fighters to "escalate their struggle" in the wake of the agreement.

But other leaders in the region and elsewhere welcomed the deal and expressed hopes it would effect a lasting peace.

"The accord puts the peace process back on track and opens the way for negotiations towards a permanent solution," Prime Minister Fuyez Tarawneh said in Amman.

"It is a step towards the occupation of Palestinian lands... and the right to self-determination," Egyptian

Foreign Minister Amr Musa said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the deal will be easy to implement if both parties have goodwill.

The accord will be "easy to enact if (both parties) demonstrate goodwill," said Mubarak, who added that implementing the agreement was of the utmost importance.

Mubarak, quoted by Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif, said that "from the moment the Palestinians accepted, we rejoiced."

(Continued on page 7)

Palestinian independence 'coming very soon' — Arafat

Agencies

POERTSCHACH — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Saturday he was confident that his people will win statehood "very soon" after the interim peace struck with Israel in Washington.

Speaking after briefing European Union (EU) leaders on the peace deal signed Friday, he reiterated that he could proclaim independence when the Oslo peace accords expire next May, although he said he hoped to be able to do so with Israeli consent.

"It is coming very soon," he replied when asked when

Palestinians would have an independent state, noting that the 1993 Oslo peace accords run out on May 4, 1999. He has previously threatened to unilaterally declare independence.

From that date "we have the right to declare our independent Palestinian state. We hope that it will happen according to the agreement between us and the Israelis," he told a press conference.

He was speaking after briefing EU leaders at an informal summit in southern Austria on the interim Middle East peace accord signed at the White House with Israeli

Premier Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I would say to all the leaders and the people of Europe: thank you, thank you, thank you," he said. "It is not by chance that immediately after signing the accord I came directly to speak to European leaders, my good friends."

"They were my first port of call," he added.

The Palestinians have repeatedly urged the EU to play a greater role in the Middle East peace process, as a counterweight to what is traditionally seen as the United States' ties with Israel.

Arafat also repeated that he

considered Netanyahu as his "new partner" following in the footsteps of former Israeli leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

"I hope this partnership will continue to exist and that all the points we have agreed will be implemented, to further the interests of Israelis, Palestinians and the whole region," he said.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders signed the accord in Washington on Friday following nine days of draw-out talks at the Wye River Conference Centre, restoring momentum to the stalled regional peace process after a

19-month hiatus.

It paves the way for a further Israeli troop withdrawal on the West Bank as well as final talks on tough issues such as the status of Jerusalem which both the Israelis and Palestinians claim as their capital.

Arafat travelled direct to Austria from Washington, stopping over in Vienna before heading to the lakeside resort of Poertschach to brief the 15 EU leaders, who are meeting until Sunday.

(Continued on page 7)

Adassiya dam project to be inaugurated today

By Alia A. Toukan

AMMAN — Jordan on Monday is set to break ground on the long-awaited Adassiya Diversion Dam on the Yarmouk River, Minister of Water and Irrigation Hani Mulki said yesterday.

The newly-appointed Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, in charge of the bilateral projects portfolio, is expected to attend the inauguration ceremony of the building of the dam, which also marks the four-year anniversary of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, official sources said.

The dam, to be built at Adassiya near Jordan's northwestern border with Israel, has been one of several outstanding issues in the peace treaty.

The Cabinet last evening was set to award a JD 1.5 million contract for the building of the dam,

designed to effectively utilise the overflow of the Yarmouk River, to a local contracting company, officials said.

"This is a Jordanian project, paid by Jordanian money, and is (in accordance) with the implementation of the peace treaty," said Duraid Mahasneh, head of the Jordan Valley Authority.

The plan, said Mahasneh, will replace sandbags which have long served as dams on the Yarmouk River, with a weir, to divert the overflow of the river directly to the King Abdullah Canal.

Monitoring equipment will also be installed to monitor water quality, said Mahasneh.

Elias Salameh, hydrology professor at the University of Jordan, said the diversion plan will serve as a "regulatory operation" to ensure year-round supply of water. "The dam

will not increase the quantity of water, but will regulate the in-flow into the King Abdullah Canal."

The building of the dam has suffered a series of delays. An official formerly close to the water negotiations attributed the delay in the implementation of the plan to "a lot of logistical impediments on the Israeli side."

Despite the specific mention of the Adassiya dam in Annex Two of the peace treaty, Israel protested the proposed site claiming that archaeological treasures lay beneath, said the former official.

The Israelis suggested an alternative site that would have meant the dam's lake would extend to occupied Syrian land. "Jordan refused to change the point specified in the peace treaty," he said.

(Continued on page 7)

Early Iranian poll returns show conservatives' grip

TEHRAN (R) — Early returns on Saturday in Iran's elections to a powerful body of Shiite theologians showed conservatives, who dominated the candidate lists, winning seats in outlying provinces. It was too early for official figures on voter turnout in Friday's polls, which pit the clerical establishment against reformists backing President Mohammad Khatami.

State radio said results from 11 minor provinces gave conservative clerics 10 seats in the 86-member Assembly of Experts, which has the power to appoint and supervise Iran's supreme leader. Five other seats went to candidates listed as independents. Final results have been promised within 48 hours of the end of polling, which was late on Friday evening. Progressive theologians and their supporters had earlier denounced the vetting of candidates, which saw a field of about 400 whittled down to 161 finalists — some 130 from the conservative camp. President Khatami, who rode a crest of reformist "people power" to a surprise landslide election victory in May, 1997, joined the chorus of protest but urged voters to take part all the same. "Definitely, the number of competent figures is more than what we have here," the president said as he cast his votes. "But still the possibility to select exists and there is relative diversity." With 80 per cent of the names on the ballot from the right, many progressives predicted that millions of pro-Khatami voters, in particular women and young people, would boycott the polls. Several senior reformist Ayatollahs dropped out in protest.

For its part, the conservative establishment called on the people to fulfil their "religious" and "revolutionary" duty to vote. State media, controlled by the right, reported a solid turnout, especially in outlying areas. But tours of polling stations in Tehran, by far Iran's largest city, suggested lacklustre participation. Few voters identified themselves as Khatami supporters. Officials say 39 million Iranians were eligible to take part in the election to the assembly, held every eight years.

More Palestinian land confiscated: Palestinian farmer Mithqal Mithqal, surrounded by soldiers from the Israeli army, Saturday points out his land, which he cannot reach due to Israeli confiscation, to Israeli peace activists. Israeli peace activists helped Palestinians who have been harassed by Jewish settlers over the past weeks as they tried to work in their fields, harvest olives (Reuters photo)



MORE PALESTINIAN LAND CONFISCATED: Palestinian farmer Mithqal Mithqal, surrounded by soldiers from the Israeli army, Saturday points out his land, which he cannot reach due to Israeli confiscation, to Israeli peace activists. Israeli peace activists helped Palestinians who have been harassed by Jewish settlers over the past weeks as they tried to work in their fields, harvest olives (Reuters photo)

Sudan pulls out of Arab Lawyers Union, to set up parallel body

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The pro-government Sudanese Bar Association (SBA) has withdrawn from the Arab Lawyers Union, in which its membership has been frozen since 1989, and announced plans to establish a parallel Arab lawyers body. "The Arab Lawyers Union has become a dead body incapable of discharging its role," SBA President Fathi Khalil said, attributing the Arab Lawyers Union's failures to its Sudanese secretary general, Farouk Abu Eissa. Abu Eissa is also the spokesman for the opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA), based in Cairo.

The SBA, which was excluded from the union on the grounds that its leadership was not democratically elected, has in recent years tried to regain membership in the Arab Lawyers Union. A rival group of Sudanese lawyers, calling themselves the National Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (NARD) and led by lawyer Ghazi Suleiman, has accused the present SBA leadership, consisting mostly of Islamists, of rigging SBA elections earlier this year. The SBA's latest bid to rejoin the Arab Lawyers Union came during the latter's central committee meetings in Tripoli, Lebanon, last week. But the central committee refused to put the SBA's membership application on the agenda. At a press conference on Saturday, Khalil attributed the move to "machinations" by Abu Eissa. He said that although Sudan is a founding member of the Arab Lawyers Union, it has never been formally notified of the 1989 decision to freeze its membership and, despite several attempts, has never been given an explanation for the suspension. Khalil said the SBA could not get information about the suspension because its delegations were denied entry visas to countries where union meetings were held.

"Sudan will lose nothing at the present time if it withdraws from the union and will gain nothing if the suspension is lifted," Khalil said. Declaring his organisation's withdrawal from the body — which "under its secretary general Farouk Abu Eissa has failed to implement its objectives" — Khalil said the SBA plans to establish a parallel "Arab lawyers league comprising associations and individual lawyers to carry out those objectives." He said the idea was "welcomed by some lawyers from Syria, Lebanon and Iraq."

Interpol set to endorse Egyptian counterterrorism proposals

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CAIRO (AFP) — The international police organisation Interpol is set to endorse Egyptian proposals on counterterrorism, officials at a six-day conference here said Saturday. "The working document [presented by Egypt] won the support of the conference delegations and its major points will be included in our recommendations," Interpol spokesman Sirag Al Rubi told AFP at the 67th general assembly of the international organisation. General Ali Reza Ghaffari, an official with the Iranian delegation, said that his country's position was "virtually identical" to that of Egypt's on the need to fight terrorism. "Terrorists must not find safe refuge anywhere in the world," Ghaffari said, adding that participants at the meeting had urged all nations to "cooperate vigorously in the fight against terrorism, particularly regarding the extradition of wanted terrorists." Egypt, wracked by militant Muslim unrest that has claimed more than 1,300 lives since 1992, presented proposals for a global agreement to restrict the movement of terrorist suspects from one country to another, cut off their funds, prevent them from seeking haven abroad and secure their extraditions. "An international effort is needed because a country alone cannot face these problems," Egyptian Interior Minister Habib Al Adly said here Monday. Egypt has accused several Western countries, and especially Britain, of granting political asylum to Islamic militants suspected of terrorist activity at home. Last year Cairo issued a list of most wanted criminals after Islamist militants killed 58 foreign tourists and four Egyptians outside a Pharaonic temple in the southern resort of Luxor. Efforts to crackdown on international pedophile rings and "the use of new communication technology [such as the Internet] for illicit behaviour" are also on the conference agenda. Interpol's information chief Serge Sabourin said Wednesday. Delegates are also discussing ways to counter drug trafficking, antiquities smuggling, contraband, money-laundering, fake passports and currency as well as rules for protecting intellectual property rights.

Qatar takes first step for holding historic elections

DOHA (AP) — Qatar's interior ministry on Saturday started finalising a list of eligible voters for the country's first elections, scheduled to be held in February. The list will be drawn from the 17,417 people who registered with the government during the past three weeks. They include 6,723 women and 10,694 men above 18 years of age, interior ministry spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Rashed Al Ateeq said. A final list will be released Tuesday and election candidates will be asked to file nominations in December, Al Ateeq said. Women will be allowed to participate. No election date has been decided. Compiling a voter list is the first step for holding the elections to the 29-member municipal council, the outcome of the emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani's promise to liberalise the country. Al Thani, who seized power from his conservative father in a bloodless palace coup in 1995, has said the municipal polls are only the first step. The next will be an elected legislature by the beginning of the next century, he says. In the last three years, he has introduced a temporary constitution and lifted press censorship, allowing newspapers to criticise ministers and government policies. In the conservative oil-rich Gulf, only Kuwait has an elected parliament, though women there are not eligible to vote or run for office. Qatar, a small Gulf emirate on the eastern side of the Arabian Peninsula, has never allowed popular participation in decision-making since its independence from Britain in 1971. Before coming under British occupation, the country was a largely tribal and nomadic society. Qatar now has an advisory council which is appointed by the emir, but the council lacks legislative powers. Even the new municipal council will have an advisory role and its resolutions will be non-binding.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah meets with South Korean president

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah meets with South Korean president

SEOUL (AFP) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz on Saturday agreed with South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung to step up efforts to boost bilateral ties, officials said. "If Saudi Arabia, which is struggling to diversify its economic structure, cooperates closely with South Korea, which has facilities and expertise, it will be beneficial for both countries," Kim was quoted as telling the crown prince. He called for Saudi Arabia to buy more from South Korea and increase investment in the country, which is eager to attract foreign funds in its efforts to extricate itself from the ongoing economic difficulties. He also asked Saudi Arabia to allow more South Korean firms to take part in construction projects. The prince said: "Saudi Arabia and South Korea have strong, cooperative ties that date back many years. I hope the two countries bring bilateral ties to a new height in all fields." The heir to King Fahd then conveyed an invitation from his brother to Kim Dae-Jung. The prince arrived here Friday for a three-day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.

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CAREER CHALLENGE

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PROGRAMME TWO

- 15:10 Cartoon — The Pink Panther
- 15:20 Cartoon — The Pumpkin Patch
- 15:30 The Adventures of the Black Stallion
- 16:00 Discover the World of Animals
- 16:30 Vid Kids
- 17:00 N.B.A.
- 18:00 Drama — Bonne Esperance
- 19:00 The Journal
- 19:15 French Programme — Science Magazine (E-M6)
- 19:30 News Headlines
- 19:35 Life's Most Embarrassing Moments
- 20:00 Today's Environment
- 20:30 Drama — Renegade
- 21:05 Farming and Ecology
- 21:30 Behind the Scene
- 22:00 News in English
- 22:30 Mini-series — Veronica Clare
- 23:30 Dodge Howser
- 23:59 End of T. X.

PRAYER TIMES

- 04:24 Fajr
- 05:42 (Sunrise) Duha
- 11:20 Dhuhur
- 14:28 Asr
- 16:58 Maghreb
- 18:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622266
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811
St. Atram Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5638404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146
The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775361

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dipping slightly, clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman 15/29
Aqaba 19/32
Deserts 12/29
Jordan Valley 18/32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent. Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:
Ajloun 27
Jerash 30
Um Qays 29
Madaba 28
Petra 29
Dead Sea 34

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bahjat Bader 5332642
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 5350432
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi 4893542
Dr. Khalil Al Tusing 4757253
Firas pharmacy 5661912
Al Asena pharmacy 4637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 4623672
Al Salam pharmacy 4636730
Yacoub pharmacy 4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660
Najib pharmacy 5347632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 0132
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615

Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdli 5666131/7
Husseini Medical Centre 5858356
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6
Akileh Maternity 4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131
Jordan Hospital 5607550
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3
Al-Bashir 4775111/26
Army, Marka 4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602340/50
Anat Hospital 5674155

7101372, (02)7103101
Rosary Sisters Hospital (02)7102831, (02)7102011
Speciality Hospital (02)7103100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (44) (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00 Lamaca (RJ)
08:00 Bornbay (RJ)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
08:50 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:00 Beirut (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
09:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:30 Brussels (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:55 Madrid (RJ)
17:45 London (RJ)
18:05 Paris (RJ)
18:05 Athens (RJ)
21:40 Rome (RJ)
21:40 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)

22:00 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
22:50 Vienna, Aqaba (RJ)
04:30 Paris (RJ)
04:30 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

05:30 Tel Aviv (LA)
07:55 Dubai (EK)
10:30 Sanaa, Ta'iz (Y)
10:30 Kuwait (KU)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)
11:30 Moscow (SU)
12:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:40 Doha (QR)
17:40 Beirut (ME)
18:00 Paris (AF)
19:00 Tel Aviv (LY)
20:00 Cairo (MS)
22:20 Istanbul (TK)
22:35 Larnaca (CY)
00:15 Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
01:25 Athens, Beirut (OA)
01:40 Belgrade (OK)
02:00 Rome (AZ)
03:15 London (BA)

06:30 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
09:35 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:35 Rome, London (RJ)
10:50 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
11:15 Aqaba, Rome (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15 Athens (RJ)
14:15 Aqaba, Milan (add) (RJ)
16:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
19:30 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
20:35 New Delhi (RJ)
22:10 Damascus (RJ)
22:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Bangkok (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)
00:10 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30 Paris (AF)
06:35 Damascus, London (BA)
08:55 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (EK)
11:30 Al Hudaydah (Y)
11:45 Kuwait (KU)
13:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:10 Moscow (SU)
13:25 Doha (GF)
15:30 Doha (QR)
19:00 Beirut (ME)
19:45 Tel Aviv (LY)
21:00 Cairo (MS)
01:15 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
02:40 Belgrade (OK)
02:45 Beirut, Athens (OA)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
Royal Wings (RW)
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
07:45 Tel Aviv (from QAIA) (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:20 Beirut (RJ)
05:20 Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)



Palestinian-Israeli deal meets scepticism, cautious hope in Jordan

Commentators note 'importance' of agreement, express doubts over Israeli implementation

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Jordanians reacted with a mixture of scepticism and hope to the new Palestinian-Israeli interim agreement signed in Washington on Friday, both fearful that it will remain ink on paper on the one hand but also inclined to give it a chance on the other.

Analysts and politicians said the new deal signed under U.S. auspices replaced the land-for-peace formula upheld by the Oslo accords with a land-for-security formula, responding more to Israeli demands than to Palestinian needs.

However, they agreed that the Wye River Memorandum was also crucial to resuscitate the peace process after a 19-month stalemate, opening the way for final status talks.

"The implementation of the agreement will be very difficult," predicted Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Azaydeh (Madrati), a moderate Islamist.

"We have to take into consideration the past lack of commitment on the Israeli side. Implementation will take some time and the Israelis will try to delay each step."

The Wye River deal, however, represents "one more step towards the establishment of a Palestinian state, and it is the best result achieved by the Palestinians so far in the on-

going process," Azaydeh told the Jordan Times.

Under the accord, Israel would begin immediately withdrawing in phases and over three months from a further 13.1 per cent of the West Bank, 27 per cent of which is already under full or partial Palestinian control.

The Palestinians will at the same time launch a series of actions aimed at ending violence against Israel by armed groups.

These actions include "ensuring the systematic and effective combat of terrorist organisations and their infrastructure... apprehending... investigating... and prosecuting specific individuals suspected of acts of violence," and rounding up illegal weapons in areas under Palestinian control.

Popular columnist Jamil Nimri, who is also a leading personality in the Democratic Party of the Left, described the deal as "frail, but important."

The weakness of the agreement lies in the issue of reciprocity, Nimri told the Jordan Times in an interview yesterday, and in the fact that it is structured on a mechanism of successive implementation phases, similar to the previous interim accords.

However, the Wye River deal remains "important,

because it places almost all the Palestinian population under Palestinian rule, and it will make it even more difficult for Israel in the future to renege on its commitments."

Such mixed reactions were common among most decision- and opinion-makers as well as on the streets.

"There is a lot of scepticism and deep desire to see things materialising on the ground," said Rami Khouri, a well-respected commentator.

"But at the same time, there is a strong capacity to give this agreement a chance," Khouri told the Jordan Times, adding that "most people will give it three-four months to see if it works."

Some analysts expressed fear that the vagueness of the Wye agreement could result in different interpretations.

"The Israelis are required to carry out troop redeployments in the same three-month period during which the Palestinians are supposed to crack down on terrorism," Nimri said.

"But who judges when and if the Palestinian [National] Authority has been decisive enough against armed groups? Do the Israelis expect each and every member of [the Islamic Resistance Movement] Hamas to be jailed?" he asked.

Many analysts said it was not yet clear how much of a role



Amman residents read about the Palestinian-Israeli peace deal in a local Arabic daily yesterday. The Wye Plantation memorandum resulted in mixed reactions among political groups, commentators and ordinary Jordanians (Photo by Yusef Allan)

the CIA would play as overseer and guarantor in the implementation of the security chapter of the Wye deal.

According to the agreement, a U.S.-Palestinian security committee would "review Palestinian steps taken to crack down on militant groups." A U.S.-Palestinian-Israeli security committee is also required to "monitor cases of incitement to violence" in the Palestinian self-rule areas and to "assess overall security coordination and fight against militants."

Most politicians and some former officials viewed the security arrangements stipulated by the Wye accord as overwhelmingly favourable to Israel, while some opposition figures went even further, warning of internal Palestinian tensions that could result in a civil war.

"With this deal, Israel has contrived it so that those who fought for the liberation of the land will be jailed," said Abdul Latif Arabiyat, secretary general of Jordan's strongest party, the Islamic Action Front.

"The only result is that [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu has

used the Arabs to strengthen his government," he said.

He added: "I can only hope Hamas will stick to its stand not to shed Palestinian blood."

One former official also warned that "the deal could build a case for an internal Palestinian conflict."

"The agreement is historic because it is the first time that Likud has accepted a territorial concession [to the Palestinians], marking a real change in the attitude of the Israeli right," he said.

"But, at the same time, [the agreement] also reflects a balance of power which is not in favour of the Arabs and Palestinians."

"The PNA will have to arrest people and be harsh on public opinion, thus triggering internal tensions the outcome of which cannot be predicted," the official told the Jordan Times.

The leftist Hashd party said in a press statement issued Saturday: "The Palestinians are paying the bill to ensure security for the Israelis. Israel has got all it wanted, and free of charge."

"This agreement entails new elements of tension in Palestine and the whole region. Popular forces should unify their ranks in the face of these developments," Hashd said.

According to the Wye mem-

orandum, Israel will also implement a series of overdue steps to boost Palestinian autonomy which were required under earlier accords, such as opening two corridors between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and authorising operations at the Gaza airport.

Under the accord, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners will be released from Israeli jails. "The sides agreed to open an industrial park in Gaza, and aim to end talks on opening Gaza seaport within 60 days," while a strategic economic dialogue will also be launched.

But, at the same time, the 700-member Palestinian National Council must abrogate clauses in the PLO Charter calling for Israel's destruction.

"I do not see how this deal is making a difference or giving a chance for the creation of a Palestinian state," said Deputy Abdullah Alkhalil (Tafleh), a moderate Islamist.

"The fact that everything remains under the Zionists' full control and that the Palestinian charter will be rewritten to accommodate the Zionists all confirm one thing: that the Israelis never did and never will give anything," Alkhalil told the Jordan Times.

(Munther Murjan contributed to this article.)

Egyptian osals

st step for ic election

22-year-old man sentenced to death for child's murder

By Rana Hussein

next 30 days.

AMMAN — A 22-year-old man was sentenced to death last week by the Criminal Court for the murder of a six-year-old child in Jerash in March of this year.

Ahmad Mohammad was convicted by the tribunal of murdering Barsi Mohammad in the Sufi Refugee Camp on March 21.

According to court documents, Mohammad's mother was being treated for mental illness, and "he believed that his brother-in-law was behind her troubles."

"Mohammad plotted to kill a member of his brother-in-law's family in revenge," the court added.

On the morning of the incident, Mohammad met with the child in the camp and "took her to his house."

"The defendant choked the girl, stabbed her with a knife, then smashed her skull with a brick. He placed her body in a plastic bag and buried her in the back yard of his house," the court stated.

The tribunal, which convened in Irbid, comprised Justices Ahmad Kharib, Sami Karaki and Ibrahim Ali.

The verdict will automatically be reviewed by the Court of Cassation within the

Attempted murder trial postponed

The Criminal Court on Saturday postponed the trial of four Iraqi nationals accused of the attempted murder in January of the Iraqi chargé d'affaires in Amman until Nov. 7, because the defendants did not appoint lawyers to defend them.

Qassim Mohammad, 24, Jafar Niman, 28, Ahmad Taji, 29, and Ahmad Muhasein, 23, are charged with attempted murder, possession of an unlicensed gun, forgery of passports and obstructing justice.

Seven others — Houliet Abbas Kazim, Bassem Mohammad, Star Taleb, Jassim Hassan, Mohammad Abbas, Eid Rashid and Namir Rasheed — are being tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the suspects attempted to assassinate Rahim Tahir, 45, on Jan. 3 near his residence in the Um Utheinah neighbourhood.

It added that the attack was masterminded by Tahir's mother-in-law because "Tahir was allegedly in love with another woman and was about to marry her."



HRH Princess Alia and Minister of Social Development Mohammad Manser at the meeting yesterday (Petra photo)

Meeting on children's products, rights opens

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Association for the Education of Children (NAEC) on Saturday opened its eighth annual meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Discussion at the two-day session, which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, who deputised for the Queen, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Manser said that all voluntary social and educational institutions in Jordan work in some capacity for the benefit of children.

Manser said physically challenged children are provided with special educational programmes to help them become productive persons in society.

The participants, specialists in

children's education and welfare in Arab states, will review studies and working papers on psychological research and products for children up to 12 years of age.

In his address to the opening session, which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, who deputised for the Queen, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Manser said that all voluntary social and educational institutions in Jordan work in some capacity for the benefit of children.

Manser said physically challenged children are provided with special educational programmes to help them become productive persons in society.

The participants, specialists in

Women's health services should be improved — Prince Firas

By Hind-Lara Mango

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Prince Firas on Saturday stressed the importance of viewing women's reproductive health as a right independent of motherhood and said women's health services in general should be strengthened.

"Health status should be analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively using multidisciplinary methods of analysis... in other words, not only relying on physicians but epidemiologists, medical anthropologists and health management professionals, just to name a few," Prince Firas said at the opening session of a regional workshop entitled "Interventions in Women's Reproductive Health Services."

The three-day workshop will focus on issues related to gender, education and health. Participants from Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan and Jordan will also focus on reviewing laws and policies affecting women's health in the region.

Deliberations will examine women's reproductive health status in countries of the region and discuss awareness programmes currently in place to improve women's health.

The Jordanian Family Health Group, comprising public health and manage-

ment professionals, organised the event in conjunction with the British Council in Amman and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan.

"The goal of the group is to adopt and promote an agenda [strengthening] reproductive health throughout the public health institutions of Jordan," said Prince Firas, JFHG president.

The group has launched several initiatives on reproductive health in Jordan, including a study and intervention package with the support of the Health Ministry, in the 'Ein Al Basha district on the outskirts of Amman.

"In the 'Ein Al Basha study, we targeted women from adolescence through menopause and old age. We found that women there suffered from a high percentage of reproductive health infections which they were not aware of," said Josi Salem, a member of the JFHG.

Salem added that women who did not know of infections did not seek treatment and had misconceptions about their bodily functions and maintaining good health.

"Women were only seen by themselves and others within their reproductive role and tended to neglect their general health," Salem said.

Wendy Savage, a doctor at

the Joint Medical College of St. Bartholomew's and London Hospitals, gave a keynote address stressing the importance of equality of opportunities for women at the international level.

"Governments must enact and enforce equal opportunity laws and eschew the global market and casual, poorly paid jobs if there is going to be equality for women," Savage said.

She noted that it was also the responsibility of women to change their image of being solely child bearers and to support each other in the global struggle to achieve their full potential.

"Women themselves prefer to have male children and they don't support each other in trying to achieve equality at all levels," she added.

Savage commended initiatives in the Middle East such as the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, which she said had increased women's opportunities by promulgating the idea of greater women's involvement in reproductive decisions.

The conference, which placed population concerns at the heart of sustainable development, stressed that reproductive health was a human right. Jordan was among the 180 countries which participated in the conference.

what's going on

- PLAY
* Moliere's "George Dandin" at the Royal Culture Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- FILM
* "Marche à l'Ombre" at the French Cultural Centre on Monday Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- MUSIC CONTEST
* Music contest at Books @ Cafe (sponsored by the National Music Conservatory) on Monday October 26 at 7:00 p.m.
- CONCERT
* Musical performance by Freddy for Music at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m. (Daily until Oct. 29).
- LECTURES
* "The Generation of 1898 and the Arab Literature: Convergence Points" (in Arabic) by Dr. Salah Fadl at the University of Jordan, Faculty of Arts, Ahmad Ibn Khalil Al Farahidi Auditorium at 1:00 p.m.
* Policies of Monetary Reform in the Developing Countries — Jordan as an Example by Dr. Youssef Mansour at Abdul Hameed Shwara Foundation, Jibal Amman on Monday Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m.
* "Newer Voices — The Caribbean" by Dr. Noha Hommat and Mrs. Anna Obaidat at the British Council, Jibal Amman on Monday Oct. 26 at 5:00 p.m.
* Lecture about the life of the late Palestinian artist Zulfu Al Sa'idi by Palestinian artist Ismael Shammout at Darat Al Fann, Jibal Weibdeh at 6:00 p.m.
- EXHIBITIONS
* Display of sculptures, album of 12 silk, screens, ink drawings, and other art work by artist Mona Saadi at her residence, Abdoun, Musatai Kamel Street (Telefax 5929700), until Oct. 29
* Ceramics by Ra'd and Ahmad Al Delaimi at Hammurabi Arts Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 5536098), until Nov. 5
* Display of amman collection at The Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Saqra St. until Oct. 31 (Tel. 5699141/2)
* Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata entitled "Homage to Jerusalem," an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfu Al Sa'idi, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'ud Nuseibeh entitled "The Farthest Mosque" at Darat Al Fann, Jibal Weibdeh, until Nov. 12 (Tel. 4643251/2)
* "Calligraphy on Crafts" at the Jordan Craft Centre (Al Aydi), Jibal Amman (Tel. 4644555), until October 31.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Gharabeh receives Iranian official**
AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Fawzi Gharabeh on Saturday held talks with visiting Deputy Iranian Minister of Schools Affairs Ahmad Zorhani on prospects of Jordanian-Iranian cooperation in educational fields. Gharabeh briefed Zorhani, who is on a visit to study the Jordanian educational experiment, on the academic and vocational training programmes in the country's schools. The two officials discussed the possibility of Jordan and Iran exchanging expertise and visits by delegations of students and teachers as well as participation by Jordanian students in summer sports camps held in Iran.
- 'JD40m per year for road maintenance'**
AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's 7,519-kilometre road network, constructed at a cost of JD2 billion, requires JD40 million per year in maintenance costs in order to help benefit residents of remote areas, the government said Saturday. Minister of Public Works, Housing and Transport Nasser Lawzi told a seminar on the role of scientific research in constructing low-cost roads that a well-established road network is one of the basic needs for economic, social and cultural development and growth.
- Delegation to attend Baghdad expo**
AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian industrial delegation will visit Iraq next month to attend an international industrial exhibition in Baghdad. The 100-member delegation will include officials from the economic, industrial and investment sectors.

PPD introduces changes to audio/visual regulations

By Alla Shukri Hamzeh

AMMAN — The Press and Publications Department has made several amendments to its June 1998 regulations covering audio/visual products, and is awaiting the Cabinet's approval, PPD Director Iyad Qattan said yesterday.

Qattan said the draft regulations will be discussed by the Legal Bureau at the Prime Ministry today.

"After the bureau reviews and approves it, the regulations will go to the Cabinet for approval," he said.

"The current regulations created problems related to approving audio/visual products, especially the important sector relating to TV series dubbed here in Arabic and aired on Arabic satellite stations," he said.

The 1998 audio/visual regulations were described by many of the country's independent television producers and actors as aimed at bringing the country's industry to its knees. They stipulate that any audio/visual product must be licensed by the PPD.

In order to obtain that licence, the product must pass through the department's censorship committee, and the producer must pay a fee ranging from JD1 to JD100, depending on the product. This regulation applies to both local and imported products.

Producers have stated that the new regulations would severely harm Jordan's competitiveness with its neighbouring countries, since it became a base for companies from different parts of the world who seek professional Arabic dubbing for their products.

Several dubbing agencies complained after the law was passed that they had to halt their dubbing projects because censorship under the new regulations would be very costly.

One producer said the regulations, which require companies to censor the product twice, first when it comes into the country and then when it is distributed to the rest of the world, would make them lose more than they stood to gain from the work.

The producer added that most of the dubbing done in Jordan was for airing outside the Kingdom, resulting in the Jordan's censorship laws being imposed on foreign parties.

"What is the need for this double censorship?" the producer asked. He added that the companies would not be willing to pay the added cost and that they would have to relocate from Jordan to Syria or Lebanon.

Several actors who had been suffering a slump in jobs and were lured into the dubbing business have also started to feel the squeeze.

"We depend on dubbing to make ends

meet; if producers stop working, so do we," one actor said.

The chairman of the Actors Guild earlier told the Jordan Times that the union was against these regulations and that if they were not amended, Jordan's television production would die. "No Jordanian, Arab or other producer will want to make any production here," he said.

Qattan said the PPD proposed that "inappropriate" double censorship on imported products be cancelled.

He added that he adjusted almost all the imposed fees on audio/visual products, cutting them down to the minimum.

"I have suggested fees on separate items be dropped down from JD25 per tape to JD3," he said.

Other amendments include reducing laser disc fees from JD25 to JD0.5 and the fees of almost all tapes of TV series and documentaries to JD3.

The fees imposed on cinema tapes, however, would remain at JD50, for commercial reasons, said Qattan.

He said an article stipulating that the PPD obtain a maximum of 50 per cent of the imposed fees per year was added.

"The production and dubbing business used to be an active industry, with a turnover of tens of millions of dinars last year," he said, adding that this has changed due to "excruciating" imposed fees.

Germany's Greens set to approve coalition programme

BONN (AFP) — Senior German Greens official Juergen Trittin called Saturday on his party to prepare for four years of hard work as he urged party activists to approve their maiden entry into government.

The alliance with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), the main winner of legislative elections Sept. 27, "is not the beginning of a wonderful friendship but the beginning of four years of hard work."

Trittin, who is the party's spokesman, was trying to sell to the some 800 delegates at a Greens party congress in Bonn the coalition agreement SPD and Greens leaders.

The accord was hammered out in just over two weeks of talks, following their election victory that ended 16 years of conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl's rule.

Trittin did not deny that the Greens had compromised on their more radical positions. But he said it was a "workable compromise" and "we should use the chances of this coalition."

Both the Greens and SPD were holding party congresses this weekend expected to rubber-stamp the 50-page agreement, titled "Departure and Renewal — Germany's Way into the 21st century" and focusing on fighting unemployment.

The new parliament is to meet Monday, exactly one month after the general elections.

The Greens are set to

have three full ministers and five ministerial state secretaries in the SPD-led administration which will be the first centre-left government in Germany since 1982.

Party leader Joschka Fischer, who is to be foreign minister, makes the closing speech ahead of a vote Saturday evening on the coalition agreement.

The Greens got many of their main ideas into the programme but modified into more moderate forms, with no date set for abandoning nuclear energy, for instance, and a lower energy tax than the Greens wanted.

Trittin, who is to be environment minister said incoming SPD Chancellor Gerhard Schröder had hindered the talks in limiting an energy tax and keeping the Greens from having only three and not four ministers in the incoming cabinet.

But he said breakthroughs had been made on making it easier for immigrants to become German citizens and "for the first time in the history of the federal government (there) is a programme that calls for the end to nuclear energy."

The Greens, an ecologically-oriented party founded in 1979 out of the student protests of the 1960s, have toned down their rhetoric as they hurtle towards exercising power.

The atmosphere at the Beethovenhalle in Bonn was a sharp contrast from past Greens gathering. The loose counter-culture ambi-

ence that was their trademark has yielded to tighter security and a sense of urgency.

Trittin had Friday called for structural reform in the sometimes chaotic Greens.

Trittin and Fischer want power centralised after the debacle during the campaign when their rank-and-file put forward extreme proposals, such as tripling the price of gasoline in order to raise money to cut taxes and labour costs, at a party congress in Magdeburg in March.

The proposals caused the party's popularity to plummet nationwide.

As part of the structural reforms, the Greens were also to vote Saturday on allowing its ministers-to-be to remain as deputies in the lower house of parliament, the Bundestag.

Fischer has said that he wants to have both mandates and could ignore a party vote, as Greens MP's did after the party came out against German involvement in NATO peacekeeping in Bosnia. Fischer voted against the party line in parliament.

Meanwhile, women members of the Greens took to the podium Saturday to protest against women not getting their fair share of positions in the incoming government.

The Greens principle is strict equality of the sexes but with two male ministers designated and only one woman — Andrea Fischer who will be Germany's health minister — this criterion is not being met.



A Delta rocket, carrying Deep Space 1, an experimental spacecraft to test technologies for the next generation of robotic solar system explorers, blasts off from Cape Canaveral on a mission that will take it by an asteroid and two comets. Described by mission officials as "a flying laboratory" for new space probe technologies, the compact craft, standing just 2.499 metres high, uses a revolutionary ion engine to propel it through the solar system (Reuters photo)

NASA launches ion-propelled spacecraft

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — NASA launched Saturday a spacecraft that can think for itself and is driven by ion propulsion — the stuff of "Star Trek."

Deep Space 1 blasted off through clouds aboard an unmanned rocket, bound for an asteroid 193 million kilometres away.

The morning launch kicked off NASA's New Millennium programme of "high risk, high payoff" technology missions that the space agency hopes will lead to frequent, affordable trips into space.

"Deep Space 1 is taking the risks so that future missions don't have to," said Marc Rayman, chief engineer and deputy mission manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Though ion engines have flown before, Deep Space 1 is the first deep-space probe to rely on such a device for primary propulsion. Ground controllers plan to fire up the engine in a few weeks, once they're sure everything is working.

The solar-powered engine will provide the extra kick needed for the winged, drum-shaped spacecraft, which weighs just over 450 kilos, to rendezvous with asteroid 1992 KD next July. It will travel an estimated 725 million kilometres before catching up with the moving asteroid.

A small Delta rocket started the probe on its budget-priced \$152 million journey.

If it weren't for the ion engine, Deep Space 1 would need 10 times more fuel to reach the asteroid.

As it is, the spacecraft carries a scant 82 kilos of xenon gas to run the engine, reducing the size of the probe and, consequently, the cost of the mission.

Here's how the ion engine will work: Xenon gas is ionized by electrons. The resulting xenon ions are drawn towards high-voltage grids and spewed into space at a speed of more than 100,000 kph. This glowing blue stream of xenon ions is what provides the gentle yet constant acceleration for months, even years.

"In Star Trek, they refer to ion propulsion as being even faster than the capability that the Enterprise had and NASA isn't quite ready to fly a faster-than-light spacecraft yet," Rayman said, smiling.

The car and the driver were provided by Al Fayed's Ritz Hotel in Paris, where Diana and Dodi had dined earlier in the evening.

The magistrate has questioned the president and the director of the Ritz, as well as the direc-

tor of the Etoile Limousine firm that had rented the Mercedes to the hotel.

An employee of the firm has said that the limousine, which had been stolen and involved in an accident, might have had brake problems. An official Mercedes service agent gave the car a clean bill of health after repairs.

Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the crash, has filed a lawsuit against unknown defendants for endangering the life of others. Legal sources say the suit clearly targets the Ritz Hotel.

Deep Space 1 is flying 10 other futuristic technologies, including lens-covered solar wings to generate additional power and a radio beacon that will inform ground controllers how the spacecraft is doing, without being asked.

If the National Aeronautics and Space Administration decides to extend the 11-month mission, Deep Space 1 will fly past one or two comets in 2001.

Deep Space 2, the next New Millennium mission, is scheduled to fly in January. Two small soil-penetrating probes will be launched aboard the Mars Polar Lander, and shot into the planet's south pole.

NEWS IN BRIEF

German nuclear waste ban draws sharp words from France

BONN (AFP) — France has told Germany's incoming government to take back nuclear waste shipped to a French reprocessing plant if it pursues plans to abandon nuclear power, it was reported Saturday. The Social Democrats (SPD) and the Green party, which are poised to form a coalition government, agreed last week to ban nuclear waste shipments to other countries, in the wake of scandals over contaminated containers. Germany and Japan are currently the main clients at the French reprocessing plant at La Hague, on the west coast. The German contract accounts for 20 per cent of the plant's turnover. The weekly Focus magazine, to be published Monday, reported that Paris has demanded that waste deposited at La Hague be removed immediately if the ban goes ahead. A spokesman for SPD chancellor Gerhard Schröder told the magazine that "an orgy of radioactive waste convoys" would need to be organised to meet the French demands. Waste convoys became a sensitive issue in Germany after a report earlier this year said that more than a third of radioactive waste convoys going to France for reprocessing were over the permitted level of radioactivity. The German plan to abandon nuclear energy, which includes a gradual shut-down of all its power plants, would also affect Britain's waste treatment centre at Sellafield. The British government said last week that it was waiting for clarification on how the German agreement would affect Sellafield's commercial interests.

Kosovo rebels warn their ceasefire is not unlimited

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — Ethnic Albanian rebels in Kosovo have warned that a cease-fire they declared earlier this month was not "unlimited," an Albanian-language newspaper reported Saturday. In a statement published in the Koha Ditore newspaper, the general staff of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), state that their Oct. 8 ceasefire "is continuing, but it is not unlimited." The KLA ceasefire was declared in response to moves by western capitals to sanction NATO air strikes against Serbia in a bid to halt its bloody crackdown on the rebels and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian civilians. But clashes between Serb forces and the KLA, which began an insurgency against Serb rule in the province earlier this year, have been on the increase in recent days, despite a pledge by Belgrade to withdraw its troops. The KLA warned that it "will not take any action against the Serbian army and the police who are withdrawing, but we will be forced to take self-defence measures on any move towards villages and our strongholds." Efforts are currently underway to deploy some 2,000 international monitors who will verify if Belgrade has complied with a U.N. resolution to withdraw its forces. Saturday NATO's two most senior military figures are due in Belgrade to stress the need for Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to pull out his troops or risk NATO action against Serbia.

Spanish judge wants to freeze Pinochet accounts

MADRID, Spain (AP) — A Spanish judge who ordered the arrest of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet has issued a petition aimed at freezing any accounts the ageing military chief might have in Luxembourg and Switzerland, news reports said Saturday. Under the legal request drawn up Friday, judge Baltasar Garzon is to send investigative teams to both countries to find out if Pinochet has financial accounts in either and if so, to block them, the leading daily El Pais reported. Garzon's said the measure was being sought to cover any possible compensation payments that might be ordered should Pinochet be tried in Spain. Pinochet was detained by British police in London on Oct. 16 on Garzon's request as a first step towards his extradition to stand trial for alleged crimes of genocide and terrorism committed during his 1973-90 rule. The National Court where Garzon works, is next Thursday to begin discussing whether the Spanish justice system has any jurisdiction over such crimes committed in Argentina and Chile. A negative ruling would scrap Garzon's probe against Pinochet while one in favour would spur the judge on to making a formal extradition request to Britain, a request which would first have to be approved by the Spanish government.

Former Rwandan education minister to face genocide charges

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AFP) — Former Rwandan Education Minister Andre Rwamakuba has been detained by the international warcrimes tribunal here to face charges of genocide and crimes against humanity, the court said Saturday. Rwamakuba, who was arrested Wednesday in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, was transferred to the tribunal's detention facility in Arusha Friday, a statement from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda said. Rwamakuba, a medical doctor by profession, is charged with incitement to commit genocide, complicity in genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide and crimes against humanity during the 1994 civil war in Rwanda, when up to 800,000 people were murdered. His arrest and transfer to Arusha brings to 33 the number of people detained under the authority of the tribunal. One of the suspects is currently detained in Texas, United States. So far two individuals — Jean-Paul Akayesu and Jean Kamukanda — have been convicted by the tribunal and sentenced to life in prison. Another joint trial of two suspects is drawing to a close.

Storms bring severe floods to Wales, at least one killed

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — Heavy rains and gale-force winds brought severe flooding to south Wales, where at least one person was swept away by a swollen stream and killed. Police Saturday were still searching for a second man missing and feared drowned. Flooding has also affected Scotland and central, north and southwest England — with more torrential rain and high winds from the Atlantic forecast for later in the day. Thousands of acres of farmland were under water in a wide belt stretching across south Wales from Cardiganshire to Monmouthshire, and 400 people were moved from their homes. A man was seen swept away in a fast-flowing stream in the Treorchy area of the Rhondda Valley, 30 km west of Cardiff, Thursday night. After a police search, his body was discovered Friday, but he was not immediately identified. Farmer William Mason, 62, was missing after he went out in the storm to save his livestock from the flood-swollen River Wye near his home at Clifford, 80 km north of Cardiff. Police and fire crews in parts of south Wales moved scores of people from their homes to the shelter of local schools and emergency centres after rivers burst their banks. Emergency services in Aberavenny, 40 km northeast of Cardiff, plucked drivers to safety after they were trapped in their vehicles by 2 metres of floodwater when the River Usk overflowed. In Cornwall county in southwest England, localised flooding Saturday forced the closure of one lane of a bridge taking traffic over the Tamar River into Devon. Coastguards at the Devon port of Brixham said vessels were putting in to port to escape the worsening winds.

Basque voters to go to polls amid hope of peace

BILBAO, Spain (AFP) — More than 1.8 million Basque voters go to the polls Sunday boosted by hopes of peace following a ceasefire declared by the armed separatist group ETA.

Voters are choosing candidates for the 75-seat autonomous parliament of the Basque region, which lies in the northwest corner of Spain.

ETA declared a ceasefire on Sept. 16 in its 30-year campaign of violence aimed at securing a Basque state.

ETA said it had been inspired by the Northern Ireland peace process and its ceasefire followed the example of the Irish Republican Army, the IRA. Herri Batasuna, ETA's political wing, and officials from moderate nationalist parties have signed a declaration in support of a negotiated peace settlement to the Basque conflict.

Previous election campaigns have been marred by ETA bombings and assassinations which killed some 800 people, but this

time the prospect of peace has dominated the meetings of all the parties in the race.

Campaigning ended Friday, when Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar called on ETA to make "clear and concrete commitments" to abandon violence.

"The time has come for them to say they are abandoning violence for good," Aznar said at a meeting of his ruling conservative Popular Party.

Opinion polls show the moderate Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) will remain in power with the biggest portion of the vote. It holds 22 seats in the outgoing parliament.

The PNV has governed the Basque Country since the first elections to the regional assembly set up in 1980 after the death of dictator Francisco Franco, support for the Popular Party and for Euskal Herriarok, which consists of Herri Batasuna and a number of radical separatist independents.

For Euskal Herriarok —

which took 16 per cent of the vote in the last election in 1994 — the poll is a referendum on the Lizarrate pact of Sept. 12. That accord saw Herri Batasuna for the first time joining moderate nationalist parties in urging a peaceful solution to the Basque conflict.

Both Spain's Socialist Party and the Popular Party have called on voters to turnout — in theory this will help them more than the nationalist parties. Spanish parties took just a third of the vote in the 1994 election.

Also in the race is the moderate nationalist party Eusko Alkartasuna (EA), which holds eight seats in the outgoing parliament.

Between the nationalist and the pro-Madrid blocs, is the leftist coalition Izquierda Unida (IU).

Polls also indicate a rise in which is close to the Communists. The IU, which won six seats in 1994, has recently come out in support of self-determination for the Basque region.

Diana crash not caused by mechanical fault

PARIS (R) — Laboratory tests on the car in which Princess Diana died in a Paris tunnel last year have ruled out suggestions that the crash was caused by a mechanical fault, a spokesman for the French Gendarmerie said Saturday.

The findings appeared not to contradict investigators' views that the crash which killed the 36-year-old princess, her companion Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul was primarily caused by drunk driving at speed.

The spokesman confirmed press and radio reports that 13 months of tests at the Criminological Research

Institute of the National Gendarmerie had found no evidence of sabotage or of faulty brakes or air bags.

An employee of the rental firm which owned the Mercedes S-280 had suggested that the car might have had brake problems.

The spokesman said the report had shown that the car was going slower than originally believed — at about 100 kph, which is still twice the legal speed limit in Paris.

Investigators had earlier said Paul, who was found to have a criminal level of alcohol in his blood, could have been driving at up to 180 kph.

The technical report also showed that the Mercedes had brushed with a white Fiat Uno car before it drove into the Alma underpass on the evening of Aug. 31 last year.

The mystery car has never been traced despite extensive inquiries among 3,000 owners of this type of vehicle.

The spokesman cautioned against drawing conclusions from the 500-page Gendarmerie report, which he said would be handed over to investigating judge Herve Stephan next Saturday.

"The judge will be in a position to draw conclusions. We cannot specu-

late beyond facts," he said.

Stephan will then have to decide whether he has enough information to complete his investigation. Lawyers and sources close to the investigation have said they expect it to go into next year.

In the early stages of the probe, Stephan formally placed nine photographers and a picture agency motorcycle driver under investigation on suspicion that they contributed to the crash by trailing Diana's car.

The accident has prompted a rash of conspiracy theories, but investigators have said

there is not one piece of evidence to support them.

Dodi Al Fayed's millionaire Egyptian father Mohammad Fayed has accused British security services of conspiring to try to stop what might have been seen as an embarrassing liaison between his Muslim son and the mother of the future king.

The car and the driver were provided by Al Fayed's Ritz Hotel in Paris, where Diana and Dodi had dined earlier in the evening.

The magistrate has questioned the president and the director of the Ritz, as well as the direc-

tor of the Etoile Limousine firm that had rented the Mercedes to the hotel.

An employee of the firm has said that the limousine, which had been stolen and involved in an accident, might have had brake problems. An official Mercedes service agent gave the car a clean bill of health after repairs.

Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the crash, has filed a lawsuit against unknown defendants for endangering the life of others. Legal sources say the suit clearly targets the Ritz Hotel.



Police arrest a protester in central Kuala Lumpur. Riot police used water cannons to disperse a 500-strong crowd in the Malaysian capital gathered in support of detained former Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim (Reuters photo)

Riot police fire painful water cannons to disperse crowds

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Riot police fired water cannons filled with stinging pepper spray Saturday at several thousand people gathered for an anti-government protest in the capital.

After warning women and children to get off the streets, the huge water trucks lumbered into a busy downtown shopping district and began spraying people who had lined the streets.

Thousands of people fled, crying and coughing from the spray that covered the streets in a blue foam.

Plainclothes police, some wearing ski masks, chased people through department stores and down side streets, nabbing them and tossing them into waiting vans.

Some were slapped and kicked and muscled to the

ground.

Police dragged one middle-aged woman from a department store after she shouted at them that they were cruel.

A policewoman carried the woman's eggs and vegetables as police pulled her into the street and her husband demanded, "Are you trying to kill my wife?"

Some of those detained Saturday were holding shopping bags and it was unclear whether they were passers-by or had intended to join the demonstration.

"It's inhumane. We were here to collect curtain fabric," said one woman who was afraid to give her name, her young daughter clutching her arm and rubbing her stinging eyes. "If they continue to send these chemicals into the air, everybody's going to be dead soon."

Dozens of stores and Sogo, a Japanese department store, shut their doors and rolled down their metal shutters.

By nightfall, the water cannons had surrounded a nearby mosque as many prayed inside. Police apparently were waiting to see if demonstrators had fled to the Muslim house of worship and intended to gather when prayers ended.

The anti-government demonstration, which never truly got under way, is one in a series of protests since ousted deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim was jailed last month.

Police have declared illegal all demonstrations in support of Anwar, who is awaiting trial on charges of graft and sexual misconduct.

So far, authorities have detained about 275 people who have attended anti-government rallies, releasing them on bail pending trial.

This week, police warned that those who join anti-government protests could face arrest under the country's Internal Security Act, which allows for indefinite detention without trial.

Anwar, who showed up at his first court appearance with a black eye and a neck brace, faces trial Nov. 2 on 10 counts of corruption and illegal homosexual acts.

He has condemned the charges as trumped up by Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad because of his growing challenge to the leader's 17-year rule.

Head delegates resume Korea peace talks

GENEVA (AFP) — Head delegates of South and North Korea, the United States and China Saturday resumed talks to hammer out an agreement that would inch them closer to establishing peace on the Korean peninsula.

Officials said the four parties were expected to reach a deal over procedural matters, allowing them to start negotiations on substantive issues in the future.

"They are making out the wording of the deal," one official told reporters.

The main aim of the four-party peace talks is to replace an armistice that technically ended the 1950-53 Korean war with a permanent peace treaty.

But this round of talks, the first in seven months, has focused on the set-up of two sub-committees, with one concentrating on implementing peace on the Korean peninsula and another on confidence-building measures.

Even if the four parties reach a deal in this round, they still have a long way to go before serious talks can start, officials said.

"This is really just the beginning. Once we agree on the two-committees our next round of talks will focus on what we will discuss in the subcommittees," the official said.

Stalinist North Korea is demanding that the issue of U.S. troop withdrawal from South Korea be included in the agenda to be discussed. It also demands that Pyongyang and Washington reach a peace agreement.

The last round of talks broke down in March over those two issues.

The talks come at an important time as suspicions escalate over North Korea's underground facilities suspected of being used to develop nuclear weapons.

U.S. surveillance is reported to have spotted an underground construction project near the frozen nuclear facilities in Yongbyon.

A South Korean opposition lawmaker this week said that North Korea was building two so far unknown underground facilities, separate from U.S. claims, to produce plutonium.

North Korea has branded the claims "groundless" saying the facilities spotted by U.S. surveillance were "civilian underground structures on which any doubt cannot be cast."

Aside from the four-party peace talks, the United States and North Korea have held separate bilateral talks since Tuesday, a day before the peace talks began.

Sources said some of the issues discussed between Pyongyang and Washington include the underground facility and provision of heavy fuel oil to North Korea as agreed between the two sides in Geneva in 1994.

Under the deal, North Korea agreed to halt the development of its suspect nuclear weapons. In return, Washington promised to supply the famine-stricken nation with 500,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil until completion.

The meeting is also being held a few days before \$5,000 U.S. and South Korean troops are scheduled to hold their annual exercise, slammed by the Communist state as wargames preparing for an attack against North Korea.

North Korea Friday resumed its war of words against plans for the joint military exercise, the biggest held in South Korea in six years, warning the war games could scupper peace talks.

Italy's right-wing to demonstrate against new government

ROME (AFP) — Busloads of Italy's right-wing opposition activists led by media magnate Silvio Berlusconi began arriving Saturday in Rome to demonstrate against the country's new broad coalition government.

The opposition Freedom Pole group of parties, comprising Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and the post-fascist National Alliance, say they hope to see a million demonstrators from across the country rally in Rome.

"Everyone in the streets against the lying government of Communists and traitors" will be the main slogan of the day.

The new government, Italy's 56th post-war administration after winning a vote of confidence in parliament Friday, includes politicians from across the political spectrum, including dissident Communists and centre-right Roman Catholics.

But Berlusconi and other right-wingers have blasted what they call "sneaky" dealings that have brought together such divergent groups.

The demonstrators are to kick off their rally at 3 p.m. (1300 GMT), marching in two lines towards a large historic square in the city, where Berlusconi and Gianfranco Fini of the National Alliance will address the crowd.

They are to denounce Premier Massimo D'Alema's government, which includes the centre-left Olive Tree coalition which fell earlier this month, the centre-right Democratic Union for the Republic and a group of dissident Communists.

D'Alema is the first former Communist to lead a major Western European government.

His vociferous critics are particularly angry at the defection of some right-wing deputies, thus the epithet "traitors."

They also criticised the pre-vote session Friday, which was shortened so that D'Alema could attend this weekend's European Union summit in Austria.

"The Left should change its way of thinking on a number of issues, but it is still state-oriented, pro-centralisation (and) interventionist," Berlusconi told his commercial television station Friday.

The anti-Mafia Rete movement and the "values" movement of the "Operation Clean Hands" judge Antonia Di Pietro also oppose D'Alema.

Despite the critics, D'Alema's administration won the confidence vote 333 to 281 in Italy's 630-seat parliament.

The government of D'Alema's predecessor, the former centre-left Premier Romano Prodi, fell on Oct. 9, after the Refounded Communist Party rejected his budget plans and forced a confidence motion — which he lost by just one vote.

Russia, China criticise NATO expansion, plan closer military ties

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia and China are fiercely opposed to NATO's eastwards expansion and proposed airstrikes on Yugoslavia, and plan to increase military cooperation with each other, Russia's defence minister said Saturday.

Igor Sergeev also reiterated Russian and Chinese warnings against a U.S.-Japanese plan to develop an anti-missile defence system, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

"This is a factor which can impair the balance of forces, and slow down the process of reduction of strategic arms," he said in Beijing.

Sergeev said Russia and China are "categorically opposed" to NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe. He did not elaborate.

Russia has long been touchy about former Soviet bloc nations joining the Western alliance, and China's state media have run endless commentaries criticising NATO expansion. Both countries view NATO as a symbol of the United States' increasingly prominent global role.

Sergeev called his talks this week with Chinese officials on NATO and the Balkans "very important," ITAR-TASS said.

The U.N. Security Council is considering a resolution that would allow NATO to enforce a peace accord for the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, but Russia and China remain staunchly opposed. Russia has religious and cultural ties to the Serbs, and China traditionally objects to military intervention into what it considers an internal matter.

Sergeev said the two countries planned to expand military cooperation, ITAR-TASS said. The report did not elaborate.

Sergeev cited his Chinese counterpart Chi Haotian as saying that President Jiang Zemin would visit Russia in late November.

Chinese officials have not announced a date for the trip, but have said it would be before year's end.

Sergeev also said during his visit that Russia is continuing to reduce its troops along the Chinese border.

Also Saturday, a delegation led by the speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament left Moscow for China for talks with Jiang and Hong Kong officials.

Korean-American college president expelled from N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea expelled a Korean-American college president Saturday after accusing him of spying on the Communist country, the North's official news report said.

James Jin-Kyong Kim, 63, president of Yanbian Engineering College in China's northern Yanbian province, was a spy of Seoul's main intelligence Agency for National Security Planning and admitted his espionage activity, the Korean Central News Agency said.

Seoul officials were not immediately available for comment late Saturday.

Kim returned to Beijing Saturday after being held for more than a month in North Korea. He avoided journalists at the Beijing airport. South Korean news media reported.

KCNA said Kim has worked for the South Korean spy agency since February and visited the North several times to spy on internal affairs and "try to undermine the socialist system in the northern half of Korea and lead the people to harbour illusions about South Korea."

"His crime deserves a legal punishment. Our organ concerned decided, however, to leniently pardon him and expel him, both in the light of the North Korea-

U.S. relations and in view of his being a U.S. citizen of Korean origin," KCNA said.

Kim entered North Korea in early September, along with a Christian pastor from Seoul, for a 10-day stay. The pastor was allowed to leave at the end of the trip but Kim was not.

South Korean intelligence officials had earlier said Kim was held for political reasons.

South Korean news reports said Kim was held in North Korea for questioning about whether he and his business partners had given bribes to North Korean officials who were purged on corruption or spy charges.

Kim, a South Korean-born U.S. citizen, has been active in recent years in promoting humanitarian and educational exchanges with North Korea. He set up Yanbian Engineering College in the late 1980s with South Korean donations.

Kim travelled to North Korea to discuss building a dental hospital in Pyongyang, the capital, and an engineering college in North Korea's free trade zone in Rajin-Sonbong, when he was abruptly detained by North Korean authorities, South Korean officials said.

Mandela launches ANC election campaign

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela, a tireless activist, Saturday launched the ruling African National Congress' (ANC) campaign for the 1999 general elections, calling on party supporters to combat voter apathy.

"We must get 66 per cent (of the vote) to complete the transformation of South Africa into a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic nation," Mandela told a rally of about 2,000 regional ANC leaders here.

He said "that means we must work particularly hard" in the central Gauteng province, the country's economic powerhouse which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria, where surveys

showed the party had less than 50 per cent of voter support.

The enthusiastic 80-year-old president, who was forced to rest for 15 days last month after suffering from fatigue, will address three other political rallies this weekend.

At the first meeting Saturday, the ANC's "special electoral advisor" spoke for about an hour, charming his audience with anecdotes and jokes.

More seriously, he called for "hardwork and determination" from party officials to attract voters, saying people who no longer supported the ANC had not joined any other party, but were undecided about who to vote for.

"We must inspire those people back into support for the ANC," he said, before slamming those who have criticised the achievements of his young ANC government.

"The whites represent 12 per cent of the population; they have ruled the country for 346 years and built their wealth through oppression and exploitation," said Mandela.

"During that time, not a single government has done the tenth of what ANC has done within four years and a half," he said, to eager applause.

Mandela threw out some statistics to back his claim: every day since 1994, about 1,700 people gained access to clean water and 1,300 homes were connected to

electricity. Each week since 1994 two clinics were built.

"There is still much that needs to be done," he said. "Indeed we would have hoped to achieve more. But we have made an impressive start."

The 1994 election, he said, "was the ending of apartheid, a breakthrough to democracy. 1999 will be an effort to deepen the foundations that have been laid."

The 1995 municipal elections were marked by low voter turnout, especially in the black townships which once led the anti-apartheid struggle.

Recent surveys suggest next year's poll will not be as well attended as the historic 1994 vote, when thousands of black voters queued for hours in the sun to cast their ballots in the first all-race general election.

Voter registration will take place at the end of November and will give an indication of interest in the poll. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has decided to re-register all voters, using a bar-coded identity book available from the Department of Home Affairs.

The date for the 1999 election has not been officially announced, despite pressure from the opposition. According to the constitution, Mandela has the prerogative to set the date but the poll has to fall between May 1 and July 31 next year.

Babs gains force on way to China after Philippines

MANILA (R) — Typhoon Babs is the worst typhoon to hit the Philippines in nearly three years and arrived a week after Typhoon Zeb killed more than 100 people on a sweep through the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan.

Philippine Defence Secretary Orlando Mercado, head of relief operations, said he would soon recommend placing more areas under a state of calamity.

President Joseph Estrada earlier placed three central provinces under a state of calamity, allowing the government to fix ceilings on commodity prices and commandeer vehicles for relief operations.

Babs first struck the central Philippines Wednesday before skirting the capital Manila on its way to north Luzon island.

It hit Bicol, a major coconut growing area, Wednesday and Thursday with winds gusting up to more than 200 km per hour.

"It's like a war zone. It's as if a bomb has been dropped," Mercado told reporters in describing Catanduanes, one of six provinces in Bicol region at the southern tip of the main Luzon island severely battered by Babs.

Mercado said most of the houses were without roofs and large areas were flooded in Catanduanes.

Babs first struck the central Philippines Wednesday before skirting the capital Manila on its way to north Luzon island.

It hit Bicol, a major coconut growing area, Wednesday and Thursday with winds gusting up to more than 200 km per hour.

The Philippines is the largest exporter of coconut oil.

At least 113 of the deaths occurred in the Bicol region, most of them victims of landslides in Catanduanes and Camarines Sur provinces, police Colonel Joven Balmeo told Reuters by telephone from Legazpi city in Bicol.

The Philippine coastguard said Saturday a Taiwan fishing vessel was badly damaged near the waters of Catanduanes and its captain was dead.

The typhoon-prone Philippines experiences an average of 20 typhoons in a year.

Meteorologists said the

two recent typhoons might signal the arrival of La Nina, which brings heavy rains and floods.

The National Disaster Coordinating Agency estimated Saturday the damage wrought by Typhoon Babs at 2.55 billion pesos (\$60.7 million).

More than 40,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by the typhoon, the ninth to hit the Philippines this year.

The state-run National Power Corp (Napocor) said electricity was down in parts of Bicol and provinces in Luzon because of toppled power poles.

International flights had returned to normal, airport authorities said.

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No endgame yet

IN NEGOTIATIONS to settle complex regional disputes there are no winners and no losers. In fact, both parties are winners, because the alternative to negotiations is worse — either war or no-war, no-peace. However, negotiations always favour the stronger party. The Wye River memorandum, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat signed on Friday, is a classic example of how the stronger party gains at the expense of the weaker side. It is axiomatic that the bargaining strength of the negotiating partners will always be reflected in the outcome of their negotiating process. This much was borne out by the Friday accord between Israel and the Palestinians.

While the Palestinians gain more land through an Israeli consent to withdraw from another 13 per cent of the occupied territories, and while they ensure the release of hundreds of their prisoners and the opening of the Gaza airport, they give up the third stage withdrawal that Israel was committed to under the Oslo accords before final status talks begin. Now the two parties have agreed to move directly to final status talks that will draw the boundaries of the future Palestinian state, determine the future of Jerusalem and the Jewish settlements, decide on the fate of refugees and address water sharing.

This means that the Palestinians would start the process of determining the final size of their country from a position of weakness and a diminutive territorial base without the benefit of a third stage withdrawal. This reflects Netanyahu's strategy never to relinquish more than 40 per cent of the Palestinian territories at the end of the process. The Palestinian National Authority was aiming for not less than 80 per cent of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on which to establish its independent state.

But the bargaining is not over yet. From what Clinton had to say on Friday, it seems the Americans, and the Israelis, are resigned to the inevitability of the emergence of a Palestinian state. President Arafat and his people, of course, start from the position that the whole of the West Bank and Jerusalem are occupied territory. If from now until Israeli-Palestinian borders are charted the Palestinians ensure Israel's security from their side, then they will have support from America, Europe and the Arabs in their demand for a full withdrawal. Most importantly, they will have support from the majority of the Israeli people itself. So far Arafat has been playing the game right. If he persists and perseveres he will win

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour's editorial commented on the signing of the security-for-land deal between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after a marathon summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton. The paper said the new deal will pave the way for a peaceful future for the troubled region. The Arab daily criticised Israel for putting the talks in doubt by requesting the release of two spies serving sentences in the United States and Egypt. The world was surprised that the entire region's future should be linked to the release of two spies. The paper said Israel's request indicates that it is willing to place obstacles in the way of the accord. The release of Jonathan Pollard, was a gift that Netanyahu could present to the hard-liners who reject peace with the Palestinians, in order to secure their support, claimed the paper.

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek called on the Syrian leadership to consider the power-relationship between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel when judging on any deal brokered between the two sides. He said the balance of power determines in whose favour the deal goes. The writer cited the recent Syrian-Turkish deal — ending the political crisis between the two countries — as an example. The deal by and large is in favour of Turkey, said Fanek. The deal gives Turkey the authority to let its agents move freely in Syria in order to check whether Syria is helping Kurdish rebels, said Fanek. It also allows Syrian officials to move freely in Turkey, but what would there be in Turkey that jeopardises the Syrian leadership, pondered Fanek. Fanek said the Syrian leadership is not to be blamed for conducting such a deal, because it was forced to succumb to the Turkish demands after it threatened to use force.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Dr. Fahed Fanek

Usual suspects, usual motives

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) can for our purposes be equated with a dentist: no one wants to sit in the dentist's chair. In fact, no one would go to the dentist's clinic unless he or she had no alternative. Most likely, patients go to the dentist at a late stage when plaque has already taken its toll and reached both gums and nerves.

It is therefore only natural for patients to complain about the painful treatment they have been subjected to, conveniently forgetting the greater pains which were in store for them had they not gone to the dentist in the first place.

The IMF was subjected to bitter criticism from the rulers of countries in crisis, who had themselves asked the IMF for help out of troubles of their own making. As expected it was subjected to louder criticism from the peoples of countries adopting economic adjustment and stabilisation programmes prescribed by the IMF, because austerity measures are too tough in comparison with the artificial and unsustainable prosperity preceding the crisis. Such prosperity was of course financed by excessive external and internal borrowing. However, the IMF was able to weather the criticism.

because it (the criticism) was not backed by effective power to influence the fund, force a change in its policies, or ease its well-known prescriptions of austerity and strict monetary and financial policies. The fund was always ready and willing to withdraw in peace from any country which did not want its services and could deal with its creditors directly without the fund's help.

The situation has shifted radically in recent months. The criticism from countries in crisis continued and was ignored as usual, but the fund finds itself now under attack from rich industrialised countries and their outspoken media especially in the U.S. Those countries hold the majority of the fund's paid up capital, dominate its board of directors, finance its rescue packages, and accordingly can subject the IMF to its wishes and force it to amend its policies to their liking.

Criticism is now concentrated on the austerity measure imposed by the fund in the case of the financially troubled Asian tigers. Such a policy is not acceptable to the industrialised countries from two angles:

First, the Asian tigers are not in heavy debt to American and European banks, therefore, the ability of

the countries concerned to service their external debt is not a source of worry in Washington. American banks are not deeply involved in Southeast Asia and are not pressuring their government to be bailed out under the cover of rescue packages supervised by the IMF and financed mainly by the U.S.

Secondly, austerity measures mean that the Asian tigers will substantially reduce their imports, which may cause recession in the industrialised countries themselves and hurt their rate of economic growth. The austerity prescription of the IMF will enable the Asian tigers to export their crises to the advanced industrialised countries as their main trade partners. Improving the balance of trade in the Asian tigers can materialise only at the expense of their trade partners.

Some of our simple-minded ideologues seem happy to see the IMF criticised by the industrialised countries. They saw in this criticism an acknowledgement that their own opposition to the IMF programmes were justified after all. Now that they know the real incentives behind the new criticism against the IMF, they may have second thoughts.

Maybe peace, maybe not

By Gwynne Dyer

"CLINTON NEEDS the (signing) ceremony like oxygen," wrote Israeli journalist Nahum Barnea early this month. But why, after 20 months of deadlock, did Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat give the beleaguered U.S. president what he wanted? It's obvious why Clinton invested 78 hours in direct contacts with the two leaders over the past nine days. He badly needed a high-profile foreign policy success to counter-balance his domestic humiliations and restore some dignity to his office.

It's also easy to understand why Arafat signed on. Things have gone steadily downhill for him since the 1995 assassination of the man he thought would be his negotiating partner under the Oslo accords, Yitzhak Rabin. Since Netanyahu won the 1996 election, the only progress on the original Oslo timetable was the (much delayed) Israeli pull-out from Hebron, and there was no evidence that the Israeli leader wanted to move even one step further.

Netanyahu, after all, won office with the support of settlers and religious extremists who oppose any 'land-for-peace' deal with the Palestinians. And rhetorically, at least, Netanyahu shares their obsession with hanging onto the West Bank: "To part with one square inch of this land is agonising to us. Every stone, every hill, every valley resonates with our forefathers' footsteps."

And with those of the Palestinians' forefathers, too, but Arafat has got nothing out of Netanyahu for almost two years. So his authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is steadily leaking away into the hands of the Islamic militants of Hamas, who reject any peace with Israel.

Arafat was desperate enough to settle for very little, but until recently Netanyahu wasn't willing to give even that. So why has Netanyahu now changed his mind?

One reason is that President Clinton, who had always avoided putting pressure on Netanyahu, finally had a political motive to turn the screws on him (albeit an ignoble one) that outweighed his fear of the powerful Jewish lobby in Washington. (Clinton

believes — probably correctly — that it was George Bush's arm-twisting of Israel at the Madrid summit in 1991 that swung Jewish support decisively behind the Democrats and won him the 1992 election.)

But Clinton, the lamest of lame ducks, hasn't got much power to twist arms any more: the last time Netanyahu visited Washington, he was openly contemptuous of him. Something else had to be in the deal to

The CIA will oversee Arafat's police; Palestine effectively becomes an American protectorate

induce the Israeli leader to sign it. Well, of course. It is a deal so sweet, from the Israeli point of view, that even Netanyahu could not help but be tempted by it.

Stand back for a moment, and consider the evolution of the Arab-Israeli struggle. In the first 25 years after Israel's independence in 1948, it fought four wars with the Arabs. In the last 25 years, no Arab state has dared to attack it, and the only war was Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Israel has complete military dominance over all the states on its borders, and over 200 (unacknowledged) nuclear weapons up its sleeve. Egypt and Jordan have signed peace treaties with it. And Israel has the United States, the sole remaining superpower, and Turkey, the largest local military power, as its allies.

Israel hasn't done badly on the internal front either. Granted half of the British mandate of Palestine by the U.N., Israel emerged from the 1948 war with four-fifths of it — conveniently without its Palestinian population, who were 'encouraged' to flee. It then conquered the remaining fifth of Palestine — the West Bank and the

Gaza Strip — in 1967, and has since ruled over the Palestinians (now 2.9 million) who are jammed into those occupied territories.

The Oslo accords in 1993 envisaged Israeli withdrawal from most of those lands (and implicitly, a Palestinian state on them) in return for a permanent peace settlement — but the Wye Mill deal is much better than that. An Arab critic recently called Arafat 'the incredible shrinking man,' and it is true.

Arafat originally made the Oslo deal because he was so weak: his main sources of money in the Gulf had cut him off for backing Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990-91. But he is even weaker now, and the deal he has signed up for will only give him around 40 per cent of the West Bank in a final settlement.

You can see how that might tempt even the most hawkish of Israelis. In effect, it means that all the Israeli settlers — now around 200,000 in the vicinity of Jerusalem, and at least 170,000 elsewhere in the West Bank — can stay where they are.

What's more, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency will 'oversee' the work of Arafat's brutal and corrupt secret police. This is a ghastly blunder for the U.S., but it's ideal for Israel: 'Palestine' effectively becomes an American protectorate.

So Netanyahu has signed up too — but it is a two-way bet. If Arafat can commit the Palestinians to this historic surrender of most of their aspirations, then fine. But if Arafat can't deliver (or if the hard-liners in Netanyahu's coalition mount a revolt that really threatens his power), then he can cancel it at any time.

As Netanyahu surely knows, Hamas will now try to wreck the deal by sending in the suicide bombers. Arafat cannot stop them, and it's very unlikely that the Israelis can either.

But those bombs, and the outrage they cause, will give Netanyahu a perfect excuse to freeze the final status talks, or even cancel this interim agreement, if he needs one. And if he hasn't entertained that thought, then he's stupider than he looks.

The writer is a London-based journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

LETTERS

A great man

To the editor:

GREETINGS AND Peace on you. This is a small note from an American woman who grew up watching your King. He is a fine man and truly one of the "few" leaders in the world today who deserves the title leader. He is a man worthy of tremendous respect. His integrity and honour in these hard times and his effort to negotiate peace in this troublesome area have surely earned him great laurels. I know he is ill and wish that he recovers soon. If the efforts he made during this personal struggle for health bears fruit I am sure it will help his spirit during this illness possibly better than any treatments can. Hopefully, he will find his health much improved. Peace be on to him, his wife and family, and his people. I watched him during the Gulf war and was so aggravated at some comments made about him by the parties involved. It is so hard to plant for the future when all around you are brandishing their plows at one another rather than sowing for the future of all. King Hussein stood out then and did so most of the time I have known about him. Much admiration and respect is for all his efforts. He is really a great man. Very few have that title in an age of easy words and staged photo ops. Thank you for your time. Bismillah Aliak.

Ladyham 5@aol.com
DKH

Proud to have him

To the editor:

MAYBE THIS is a crazy letter but I would like the whole world to know just how much King Hussein should mean to this world. I am 70 years old and I have never in my life seen a political leader that is so loveable and peace-loving as King Hussein. You can almost feel his kindness through the television. All people in your country should be proud to have him as your King. I only wish our president had his morals and kindness. He makes me feel happy just to hear him talk, but I am saddened because of his health and I could think of nothing nicer than to hear that he was going to be with us another hundred years. He reminds me of a father watching over his children, leading them the way that God would want him to lead them.

A great man who fears God.

Long live King Hussein is my prayer.

Wilford Bane
USA

This way to the scaffold, hurry along

By Simon Hoggart

THE DEATH of the aristocracy was proposed last week by a handsome woman in glasses, wearing a crisp red outfit, speaking with warmth and humour.

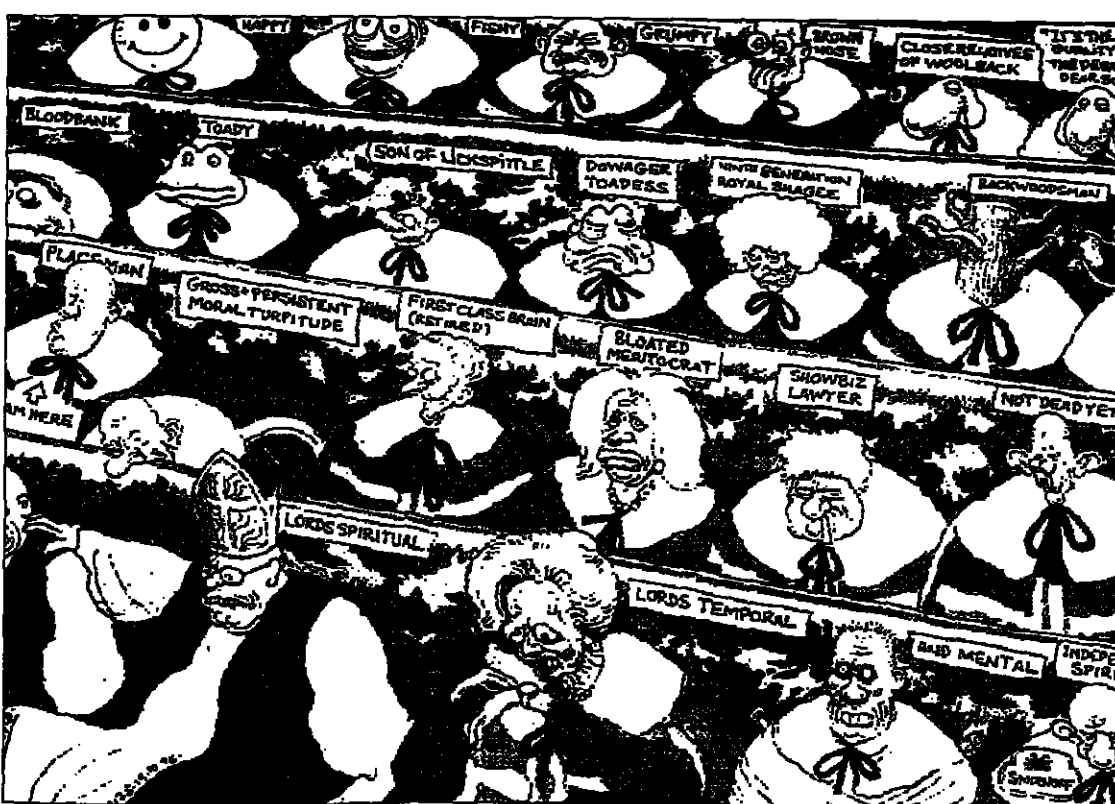
It was frightfully British. Who needs a mob? If they ever bring back the death penalty, they can use Baroness Jay as the kindly hanger-on. "There, there, this way to the scaffold. I'm sure you agree your execution is really for the best."

She was opening the House of Lords debate on hereditary peers. The British government wants to remove their powers to sit and to vote in the Upper Chamber, and last week their lordships began the debate on their own future, such as it is.

Yet Baroness Jay, Leader of the Lords, is really a hereditary peer herself. Her father is Lord Callaghan, and to be frank, it seems unlikely that she would be a baroness at all if her father had never been prime minister.

She is proof that, when revolutions occur, one group of privileged people is generally replaced by another group of privileged people who happen to follow a different flag.

It was pretty well impossible to argue with what she said. The hereditary principle was "profoundly undemocratic." Women — half the population — were



represented by only 2 per cent of hereditary peers. The whole set-up was "glaringly unfair and glaringly outdated." The reform had been thoroughly endorsed at the last election.

Who could disagree? The trouble with all House of Lords debates is that it's hard to disagree with anyone. They are all so

damned reasonable.

Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader, is, being a Salisbury, just about as hereditary as it's possible to be. Almost everything he said was true.

Once the hereditary peers had been sent packing, he said, there would be no rush to complete the reforms, since the prime

minister of the day would never give up the patronage involved in appointing life peers.

The real reason for the delay, he said, was that this government did not like "independent-minded bodies with rights and obligations to question them and to hold them to account."

How very accurate. And how true it was when he said that "attacking hereditary peers is the only political issue that unites the upper classes of the Labour Party with the gentry of Islington and the helots of Old Labour."

He finished by saying that, as a hereditary peer, "I will go quietly if a properly independent chamber takes our place. To be asked to go without that guarantee is to be asked to connive at the final victory of the executive over parliament."

Dickens's Sydney Carton could not have put it better. Indeed, most of the peers who spoke — including the hereditary ones — seemed to think that it was a far, far better thing they were about to do than they had ever done, apart from having lunch.

The most venomous speech came from Lord Richard, a Labour life peer, who said of the hereditary lot: "They sit independently. They listen independently. They weigh the arguments independently. And then they independently vote Conservative."

Features/News

By Deborah Sontag

Hebron peace bears bitter fruit

AT ONE entrance to divided Hebron, before the dusty descent into the hellish heart of the Old City, there is a carefully tended shrine to Dr. Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish settler who killed 29 Muslim worshippers before he was set upon and killed himself.

The government declared the shrine illegal four months ago, but still it stands, a marble tomb rising from a landscaped plaza on a bluff in the Judean hills. Scores flock there in pilgrimage every week, each leaving a pebble on the four-year-old grave to mark the visit. "Here is buried the martyr, the doctor," an etched inscription in Hebrew reads. "May the Lord avenge his blood."

Deep in the Palestinian part of town, a different kind of illegal shrine thrived until it was raided last month by Palestinian police. It was an homage to terror, an explosives factory from which Islamists were thought to be preparing a grand attack before they were arrested.

These are the poles of antagonism in a city where a daily dance of violence leaves the streets strewn with chunks of concrete, shards of glass and rubber bullets. There is an almost ritualised series of nasty tangos here — not just between the Jewish settlers and the Palestinians, and not just between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian youths, but also between the soldiers and the settlers chronically dissatisfied with the security provided.

To almost all, this ugliness is seen as a bitter fruit of the Hebron accord, signed triumphantly in January 1997. In some ways, Hebron serves as an object lesson in what can go wrong after a deal is made, especially when there is a gulf between the lofty words of the peacemakers and the deep-seated antagonisms on the ground. It also serves as a reminder that interim solutions are not final answers, but in many cases, just postponements of the most potentially peace-shattering decisions of all.

"I hope I'm not an angry prophet," said Col. Yigal Sharon, who oversees the Israeli side of Hebron, "but I certainly think that Hebron is a microcosm and a harbinger of the future."

Long a magnet for zealots on both sides, Hebron is an extreme and peculiar case. It is not a Jewish settlement abutting a Palestinian village, like most in the West Bank, but a divided city. Surrounded by barbed wire and security cameras, about 400 settlers live smack in the midst of about 120,000 Palestinians, guarded by up to 2,000 Israeli troops, with 200 international observers.

Still, it is a laboratory for the key issues about land and security. Specifically, it illustrates that the impassioned battle for land can continue long after an agreement is signed — especially when the land is near a holy site — and that security cooperation between the Palestinians and the Israelis demands an evolved relationship that could take years to build.

No one knows this better than those who live the experiment: a Jewish settler like Orit Struck, mother of nine, who declares, "I am a soldier on the front line to a battle," a Palestinian Hebronite like Mufida Sharabati, mother of seven, grandmother of 18,

who says, "Peace with these people? Don't make me laugh," and Col. Sharon, a kind of philosopher-commander, cosmopolitan-looking even in his khakis and red paratrooper boots with his rifle slung over his shoulder.

"Hebron is a city without normal days," the colonel said two weeks ago, an hour after his troops, responding to a furious pelting by rocks, shot and killed a Palestinian young man and wounded a Palestinian photographer. "If it's quiet, it's only on the surface. Quiet is a fiction because the hatred and violence continue to sizzle just beneath. It takes a nothing, a tiny provocation, and boom, blood is shed."

The conflict is almost choreographed. A stone is thrown by a Palestinian youth, and it lands at the feet of a settler woman. The woman, scarf of her head and baby on her hip, screams at the Israeli soldiers for failing to protect the Jews. The soldiers go off in search of the stone-thrower, slipping around the mesh fence that divides the city. Their presence on the Palestinian side provokes stone-throwing. The stone-throwing provokes shooting. There is an injury, or even a death, as there was two weeks ago when a young Jordanian man was killed by a rubber-coated bullet. There is a funeral, like his, that draws thousands of angry Palestinians into the streets. The desire for revenge is fuelled, and the ugly cycle starts again.

This is the brotherhood of Hebron, Former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had envisioned something more noble when he oversaw the signing of the Hebron Protocol by Netanyahu and Arafat in January 1997, saying it "reaffirms my conviction that a just and lasting peace will be established between Israelis and Palestinians in the near future."

The protocol legally divided Hebron, a city already divided in every other way. Israeli troops withdrew from 80 per cent of the city, but 20 per cent remained under their control. It was a grey solution that satisfied no one — not the Palestinians, who wanted it all, and not the settlers, who felt abandoned by the troop withdrawal from most of Hebron.

Twenty-one months later, this dissatisfaction has hardened into despair. Israeli troops have withdrawn from most of Hebron, but Palestinians still feel their lives controlled by Israeli security concerns, complaining about frequent border closures, harassment at checkpoints and, on the Israeli side, devastating curfews. Settlers feel more insecure than ever, because Israeli troops cannot chase suspects deep into the Palestinian part of the city.

In the Israeli-patrolled enclave, living nose to nose under guardrails of wire thorns, are some 25,000 Palestinians and about 45 Jewish families, many American, from the radical fringe of the settler movement, including the outlawed Kach organisation of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The settlers are dispersed in six compounds, all in the old Jewish quarter, which was abandoned after Palestinians killed dozens there in 1929 and reoccupied after the 1967 Middle East war. One compound, Bet Hadassah, houses a basement museum, with gory pictures from the aftermath of the massacre.

There are sound-and-light shows for tourists who travel there with security escorts, and a high-tech vending machine that dispenses pita and hummus.

While some residents are part-time, visiting from abroad, being a settler is a full-time occupation. Most are employed by the settlement, financed by the government of Israel and by private donors from abroad. Many drive white Subaru station wagons, equipped with navigational systems, which allow them to be tracked by the police and by their own security forces. They carry walkie-talkies, beepers and guns.

Orit Struck, who draws a salary as the head of a woman's association, was a pioneer, and she has been one of the most steadfast believers in the cause — the "reoccupation" of Hebron by the Jews. "I want to be a player in Jewish history," she said.

The settlers consider Hebron as holy as Jerusalem, if not holier. For both Jews and Muslims, the city's special importance derives from a towering stone fortress that holds Abraham's tomb. Jews, who consider Abraham their father, call it the Cave of the Patriarch, and Muslims, who consider Abraham an Islamic prophet, call it Ibrahim's Mosque.

Like the city, the structure is divided, with separate entrances and separate praying areas, since the Goldstein massacre, which took place there during early morning prayers.

Wearing a long skirt, her brown hair demurely covered by black netting, red slippers on her stocking feet, Mrs. Struck sat in her worn apartment recently, enduring an interview before she rose to transform a bowl of flour into challah bread for the Jewish holidays. Outside her window, small children played with Israeli soldiers, riding the barrels of their rifles.

Born in Jerusalem, Mrs. Struck was not raised an observant Jew, but found religion as a teen-ager, drawn in by Jewish history. Sixteen years ago, determined to live in a "miraculous, historical place," she and her husband joined six families that moved into trailer parks in Palestinian Hebron, doubling the size of the Jewish population overnight.

They were not welcome; the mayor did not want to hook them up to water and the sewage system. Still, Mrs. Struck said she and her husband, a teacher, had a superficial relationship with their Palestinian neighbours, shopping at their stores, even attending some parties.

That is all over. Frictions increased during the intifada, the Palestinian uprising that began in 1987. Personally, her sociability cooled after a Palestinian tried to stab her husband in 1991, she said; her husband was not hurt but shot and wounded the man, who, to their great anger, served only six months in prison.

"He claimed he was going to peel oranges with that knife, and the court accepted that," Mrs. Struck said, rolling her eyes.

After the city was formally divided by the accord, the Strucks briefly considered leaving, but decided not to desert the cause. "The history of the return to Zion is paved with victims," she said.

That is the story of Hebron. No one will budge. The Sharabati family has owned their house on Martyrs' Street, the aptly named main drag of old Hebron, for 100 years. In a desk drawer, they keep a weathered document that they claim to be the official Arabic translation of an Israeli army offer to buy them out for \$1 million.

"My husband said, 'We have no other property, and money could not compensate us,'" Mufida Sharabati said. "We will never accept this, to move. That's what the Jews want us to do. I gave birth to all my children here. We will only leave this house in boxes."

It was the fifth day of a two-week curfew — lifted Tuesday — and 13 Sharabatis had been locked inside their home, watching cable television, playing cards, drinking sweet, hot tea, eating lentils and beans and smoking their water pipe. From their small terrace diagonally across from Bet Hadassah, they looked on helplessly as some settler teen-agers planted Israeli flags on Arab storefronts.

Mrs. Sharabati's sons — an electrician and two pipe fitters — could not go to work, and her grandchildren could not go to school.

"When I look out my window and see the settlers moving about, carrying their vegetables in bags, their children playing in the streets, I feel horrible that I cannot provide a free life like this to my family," Mrs. Sharabati said, the white lace of her head covering snapped at her chin.

Like Mrs. Struck, Mrs. Sharabati and her sons talk of another era, when they had Israeli friends and business partners. They are not anti-Israeli, they say. "We know the peace lovers who live in Tel Aviv are different than these people, the nuts, here," said Mufid Sharabati, who is 33. "They say we are not human, and we say the same of them. They are the most difficult people, and they were planted here by the Israeli government to be a constant source of provocation."

Mufid Sharabati belongs to the Fatah movement. He believes in the peace process. His older brother, Tareq, is not so sure. When he heard about the grenade attack against the Israeli soldiers, he said, he supported it. "People want to see any action, to feel that something is being done to express our rage," he said.

On a recent day, Col. Sharon, with no helmet, planted himself in the path of oncoming stones, yelling in Arabic for the Palestinian youths to go home and play with their toys. A dozen of his soldiers crouched behind concrete barricades, guns at the ready.

An Arabic speaker and a native of Tel Aviv, Sharon, 39, is the model of a modern Israeli officer, and on quiet days he likes to stroll the Palestinian marketplace chatting up the vendors. This day,

however, he was angry that his Palestinian counterparts had not held back the stone-throwers.

"If they're thinking about staging an intifada deluxe, they'll pay the price," Sharon shouted into his cell phone to the Israeli liaison officer with the Palestinians. "You can't have peace talks on the one hand and people getting hurt on the other."

However, many joint patrols he and his men run with the Palestinians, it is a cooperation ready to disintegrate on a dime. The Palestinians have a hard time rising above the feeling that security cooperation equals collaboration. And the Israelis are suspicious that the Palestinian police can operate without political interference.

According to Sharon, the Palestinians are responsible for the fact that his men shot and killed a Jordanian that day, and shot and wounded a Palestinian photographer. That, in his thinking, is because they did not rein in the street protests encouraged by leaders.

As he grilled his soldiers about the photographer, he tried to coax a confession out of them. "It's OK with me — you had a head injury — just tell me," he said, but the soldier insisted that no journalist had been shot.

"Come on," Sharon responded. "He's in the hospital with a rubber bullet in his head!"

So far this year, the Palestinians are responsible for 1,661 stone-throwing incidents and 160 fire-bombs, for eight shooting incidents and 11 explosions, according to the Israelis. An elderly rabbi was killed by terrorists, and 13 soldiers were wounded in the recent grenade attacks.

Eight Palestinians were either killed in confrontation with Israeli troops, or died because they were held up at checkpoints on the way to hospitals, according to human rights groups. About 180 were treated for wounds at hospitals.

Israeli soldiers begin their tour in Hebron with a romantic notion of the settlers' cause, and it is common wisdom here that after being spat on, spied on and harangued, many end up thinking them unholly pests.

On the day the Israelis killed one Palestinian and wounded another, Baruch Marzel, a bearded, heavy-set settler, stopped his car to complain to Sharon that the soldiers were not doing enough to restrain the Palestinian youths.

Earlier, Marzel, who lives in a small trailer park above the city on which Netanyahu has promised to spend \$2 million to reinforce, had said the conflict in Hebron was not being taken seriously enough.

"There are a lot of people who have palaces in Beverly Hills," he said, "but not a lot who live in a trailer atop Jewish history. If we don't have a right to live here, where do we have a right to be?"

Wearing a pin-striped caftan, his neighbour, Mohammad Abueisheh, 63, had stared across the street as Marzel talked, locked by the curfew inside the metal cage he has built around his house to protect it from stones and bullets.

"They laugh at us, you know," he said later. "They joke that we are animals inside this cage. But wise people would shudder."

— New York Times

LETTERS

A great man

Jordanians take pride in King, laud his role in concluding accord

(Continued from page 1)

He said "despite the King's health conditions, he was there to prove his total commitment to the peace process and readiness to make sacrifices for peace."

"The King has spoken briefly but his remarks were comprehensive, stressing that we are now moving in the right direction," Abu Jaber said.

Mazen Ma'aitah, chairman of Jordanian Federation of Labour Unions, said "the agreement was the fruit of the King's efforts, accompanied by those of the U.S. president."

President of the Jordan Press Association Seif Sharif said "Jordanian journalists take pride in what the King has achieved."

Sharif noted that "the whole world has recognised the King's courage, and President Clinton has stressed that the whole world is indebted to the King, who sacrificed his time for the sake of peace, when he was supposed to get rest."

The Arabic daily Al-Dustour lauded the King's intervention at the talks describing the Monarch as "the captive dove of peace imprisoned in the cage of Israeli intransigence, and finally freed."

"God has heeded the prayers of the peace lover, King Hussein, whose intervention twice had the greatest impact in reaching peace and who endured his illness for the sake of a better future," the paper added in a front-page editorial on Saturday.

"He was impressive, he showed that he is a man with the sense of his historic mission, beyond his personal situation," said Jumil Nimri, a columnist who is also a leftist politician.

"The King was above the whole scene, he appeared above the other heads of state," a former minister told the Jordan Times. "He was the voice of wisdom."

At the White House ceremony the King confirmed that his morale was the highest ever, and said the Palestinian-Israeli deal had been "a shot in the arm" for him.

"He is like a father to us; we cannot describe the joy and pride we felt when we saw him speaking so clearly, in his usual tone," said Mouna Sa'id, speaking on behalf of her group of girlfriends at the University of Jordan.

"We are not worried anymore, it was one of his most touching and wisest speeches, and everybody there obviously thought the same," she said.

"Nobody should forget how lucky we are to have him as our King," said Mazen Amr, a 27-year-old engineer. "I am sure last night many people watching CNN in the region and in the world were envious of Jordanians."

"When he stood up to reach the podium, we were very excited, and worried," said Dina Hadid, a mother of two.

"But since his first words, we recognised his usual look, expressions, and tone. He proved his great courage and spirit, especially when he joked about his illness," she said.

Thinner, but confident and smiling, King Hussein told participants in the signing ceremony: "And as the [U.S.] president said, [U.S. Middle East envoy] Dennis [Ross] has lost his black hair, and me... I have lost all mine, and even my eyebrows."

"But this is part of the life which we live and I am privileged to be with you all," he said.

The King has appeared various times on Jordan Television receiving Jordanian and foreign officials since he was hospitalised on July 14 at the Mayo Clinic.

On two occasions, he addressed the nation: First, in July, to frankly and openly inform his people that he had been diagnosed a lymph cancer, and then, in September, in a telephone interview with JTV, to tell the people that the results of medical tests taken halfway through his treatment were reassuring.

"Many in our part of the world, in different parts of the world have written me off," he said Friday, referring to an unannounced Israeli report last week that he would be terminally ill.

"But I have a lot of faith in God, and I believe that one lives one's destiny."

A smiling King insisted that it was the attending leaders' responsibility to move beyond violence as a way to resolve political differences.

"We have no right to dictate through irresponsible action or narrow-mindedness the future of our children and our children's children."

"There has been enough destruction, enough death, enough waste," he said.

Musa plays down differences between Amman, Damascus

(Continued from page 1)

He pointed that they consider the agreement as an "achievement" to the Palestinian people and expressed their support to the Palestinian leadership.

Khatib said that his talks with Musa covered recent developments in the peace process and the agreement between Syria and Turkey ending a crisis between the two countries, which was reached through Egyptian mediation.

"The visit is part of coordination between the leaderships in the two countries which has been intensified in the past 10 days," Khatib told reporters.

Musa said that the two sides agreed to hold a meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in Amman next month. The meeting will be chaired by prime ministers of the two countries, Faysal Tarawneh and Kamal Ganzouri.

He stressed that the two countries are keen to increase trade and investments between the two countries.

Central Bank of Jordan figures, released last week, indicated that the trade balance between Jordan and Egypt in the first seven months of this year amounted to JD26.7 million, with JD11 million balance of trade in favour of Egypt, compared to JD24 million during the same period in 1997.

World leaders hail Wye accord amid Arab scepticism

(Continued from page 1)

In Madrid, where the Mideast peace process began with a 1991 conference, Foreign Minister Abel Matutes said Spain was satisfied with the "historic" agreement and expressed hope that "the momentum from the accord allows for the settlement of outstanding questions."

South Africa's Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo praised the accord but said meeting the commitments would require sacrifices.

"This is a triumph for all peace-loving people, both in the Middle East and the world," he said in a statement, adding the real test lay in whether the parties managed to make the sacrifices necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

The 22-member Arab League urged the United States on Saturday to make sure the Middle East peace accord is fully implemented by Israel.

"[The United States] must continue its efforts to ensure the redeployment of the Israeli army" from the West Bank, said Said Kamal, the League official concerned with Palestinian affairs.

Without such supervision the accord signed by Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Friday could be in "peril because of Israel's current policies," Kamal warned.

The Arab League has repeatedly blamed the 19-month deadlock in the peace process on the "intransigence" of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The accord brings more justice, humiliation and frustration that the Palestinian people do not deserve," the Qatari newspaper Al-Raya said, accusing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of accepting "all the conditions" laid down by Netanyahu.

"The accord signals victory for [U.S. President] Bill Clinton and Netanyahu, while the Palestinian people have been dealt a new blow with this degrading accord," it said.

The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-Khaleej denounced Netanyahu as a latter-day Shylock, the conniving Jewish moneylender in William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice."

"The Merchant of Wye Plantation," Shylock-Netanyahu, has extracted a new morsel of Palestinian flesh," Al-Khaleej said.

Saudi Arabia's Al-Medina paper suggested the agreement was signed because of Clinton pressure to clinch a deal to compensate for problems at home.

"President Bill Clinton, confronting enormous domestic challenges, needed an accord at Wye Plantation more than the other parties," it said.

"The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] gave everything and took nothing worth mentioning in return," charged the official Syrian newspaper Tishrin.

In a stinging editorial entitled "Enough Victories," the Al-Tawhira newspaper, mouthpiece of Syria's ruling Baath Party, said the accord "was designed in a greatly scandalous way to make it appear as a victory for the PNA."

"If the initial [1993 interim] accord was a political scandal in which the PNA offered compromises undreamt of by Israel... this accord is a great surrender of what was left of Palestinian rights," it said.

Israel braces for protests

(Continued from page 1)

On the far right of the Israeli political spectrum, Netanyahu was accused of "treason" and of betraying his principles by agreeing to transfer another 13.1 per cent of West Bank to the Palestinians.

"This is one of the saddest days in the history of Israel," said Rehavam Zeevi, leader of the far right-wing Mokedet Party.

Jewish settlers said they had been "betrayed" by Netanyahu, who they helped bring to power in May 1996 elections.

"He is sticking a knife in our backs and creating a Palestinian state by signing an agreement of surrender," said the Jewish settlers' council for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Wye River talks are to be followed by the opening of negotiations on so-called "final status" issues which are seen as considerably more difficult than those that have just been resolved.

The issues on the table include the status of the "Palestinian entity," its borders, the future of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the fate of Palestinian refugees and the status of Jerusalem which Israel has vowed never to give up.

Palestinian independence 'coming very soon' — Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

In his hour-long exposition to the assembled presidents and prime ministers, Arafat notably expressed the hope that an airport can be opened in Gaza within two weeks, and that authorisation be given for a deep-water port within two months, according to summit sources.

Arafat, meanwhile, confirmed that a conference of donor states will be held at the start of December. "The EU is the biggest provider of aid to the Palestinian territories. In Vienna, a visibly exhausted Arafat had said he was confident the peace deal would be implemented because Netanyahu had become his "new partner."

"I'm sure it will be implemented," he said after talks with Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel, whose country currently holds the European Union presidency.

Arafat will then travel to Cairo to brief Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the deal.

Mubarak said in Cairo that his meeting with Arafat will take place on Sunday.

The Egyptian leader, whose country was the first Arab Nation to make peace with Israel in 1979, appeared cautious about the deal for an Israeli troop withdrawal and Palestinian security measures signed in Washington on Friday.

"We will wait and see," Egyptian television showed Mubarak as telling soldiers during a visit to army units in the Red Sea city of Suez as part of Egypt's celebrations of 25th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

"I will meet Abu Ammar [Arafat] tomorrow [Sunday], but the important thing is implementing the agreement... There were too many agreements that were never enforced."

Adassiya dam project to be inaugurated today

(Continued from page 1)

adding that Sharon and former Water Minister Munther Hadaddin later ironed out the final details of the project in lengthy negotiations last year.

The project was meant to be implemented last summer, but was delayed once again. Monday's ceremony was planned during talks held between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sharon on Oct. 14.

Musa: Arab banks have duty to shield region from effects of world financial crises

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa Saturday said that the crisis in world markets could affect the Middle East region if no measures are taken to prevent any negative consequences on our region.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the graduation of students from the Arab Academy for Banking Financial Sciences, Musa urged Arab commercial banks to adopt certain measures to spare the Arab World from any negative results.

"The world economic crisis resulted from banking mismanagement which became visible in the setbacks that hit Asian markets recently. It was difficult to contain the crisis because the markets lacked trust in these banks," the minister, who arrived here Saturday on a two-day visit, said.

"Arab banks are not far away from these developments. The duty of Arab banks is to protect the economies of their coun-

tries from any negative consequences," Musa said.

"Arab financial institutions have their own systems that would protect them from any such consequences," he indicated, adding that Arab banks are playing a major role in the economic restructuring programmes which their countries are undertaking.

Musa said the Egyptian central bank is playing a major role in the country's monetary policy to ensure the stability of the Egyptian pound and a stable foreign exchange reserves amid "reasonable" inflation rate.

"Arab commercial banks should work as a catalyst to enhance investments in the Middle East," the minister told the graduates and other dignitaries which attended the ceremony.

During the 90-minute ceremony, the Egyptian official urged Arab businessmen to spearhead trade cooperation among Arab states.

He pointed out that despite all measures taken by Arab states, inter-Arab trade figures show they are

still very "humble."

"Such things should not continue, because there are challenges facing us which make it necessary to intensify cooperation and increase the volume of trade among the Arab countries," the minister said.

He said globalisation and new international trade rules, which will bring world markets together and remove all trade barriers, are among the challenges facing the Arab World.

Musa said the Arab summit, held in Cairo in 1996, has called for the establishment of a free trade zone among the Arab countries in the upcoming 10 years, which should be in effect by the year 2007.

The minister emphasised that some Arab states have started to remove trade barriers and ease tariffs in line with the Arab summit resolution.

Musa who met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and held talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib, is expected to leave Jordan today.

Latin America will survive Asian crisis — study

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Latin America will survive Asia's economic crisis better than other emerging markets, according to a new economic study.

However, the depressed market for the region's commodities and the high cost of international financing will dampen the area's economic growth, Spain's Santander Investment firm said in a report.

Santander analysts have lowered an earlier 3.5 per cent growth rate for the region, to 3.2 per cent in 1998, due largely to Asia's economic crisis. But in 1999 the region should have a 4.5 per cent growth rate, they predicted.

Latin America also will continue making progress against inflation, a result of general deflationary pressures worldwide as well as efforts by Latin American governments to create greater economic stability.

Region-wide, inflation should be 8.1 per cent in 1998 down from nine per cent in 1997. Projections for 1999 are for 7.6 per cent.

The report further listed competition from cheaper Asian products and a slowing of the world's growth rate as principal factors accounting for Latin America's decline in exports.

Depressed exports will cause the region's balance of payments deficit increase from 3.2 per cent of gross domestic product in 1997 to four per cent in 1998.

The gross regional product will increase only slightly from \$1.924 trillion this year to nearly \$2 trillion in 1999, said the study.

Since the big drop in commodity prices has already occurred, analysts predict that the region's trade balance will improve

in 1999. Prices should not fall further but neither will they increase appreciably.

Capital investment to Latin America will continue to be influenced internationally by a tendency of money to move "toward markets characterised by their quality" such as U.S. treasury bonds or Germany's "Bunds."

Still, direct foreign investment "will play an ever-increasing role to help Latin American countries reduce domestic debt."

Direct foreign investment is expected to increase from 52 per cent of total investment capital in 1998 to 66 per cent in 1999.

Foreign investment projected at \$47.7 billion in 1998 is expected to increase to \$52.2 billion in 1999.

Commodity prices will continue to be weak in 1999 and pose a real challenge for countries vulnerable to their wide price fluctuations like Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela, said the analysts.

Argentina, Brazil and Peru should fare better in this area helped by their governments' more stable policies.

EFTA, Palestinian Authority agree free trade deal

GENEVA (R) — The formation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the Palestine National Authority have initialled a free trade agreement due to come into force on July 1, 1999, EFTA said.

The agreement will establish free trade in industrial goods, fish and other marine products as well as processed agricultural goods between EFTA and the Palestinian Authority, according to a statement issued in Geneva after the initialling. EFTA groups Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The formal signing will come on Nov. 30 on the sidelines of the EFTA ministerial meeting in Leukerbad, Switzerland. EFTA has had a free trade agreement with Israel since 1992.

It held a first round of talks with Jordan last month and is due to begin negotiations with Egypt in December, according to EFTA spokesman Robin Tickle.

Jordanians urged to focus on the Bulgarian market

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting former prime minister of Bulgaria, Renita Anne Jova, said Saturday that Bulgarian businessmen are interested in investing in Jordan.

Speaking during a visit to the Sahab Industrial Estate where she met with businessmen and factory owners, Anne Jova said her country will be ready also to

offer assistance to Jordanian industries and help promote sale of Jordanian products in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian official called on the Jordanian businessmen to focus their attention on the Bulgarian market, saying that her country is considered as a conduit to the countries of the former Soviet Union as

well as Albania and Yugoslavia.

Jihad Salem, chairman of the Arab-Bulgarian chambers of commerce indicated that the Bulgarian official's visit to Jordan comes within the framework of bolstering trade and promote relation between Jordanian and Bulgarian investors.

He said Bulgaria constitutes a good market that can absorb a great deal of Jordanian industrial products.

Two furnished apartments for rent in West Shmeisani:

1) First Apartment: A furnished apartment in Western Shmeisani for rent

Its area: 220 sq.m., second floor apartment, consisting of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, guest room, spacious living room, veranda, independent central heating, telephone, maid room, modern equipped, kitchen, and luxurious furniture. Annual Rent JD6000.

Please call between 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Tel.: 5665711 or 5679676 or 079-523459

2) Second Apartment: A furnished apartment in Western Shmeisani for rent

Its area: 90 sq.m., consists of two bedrooms, dining room and sitting room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, telephone, separate central heating and water well, and private garage. First floor, lift, and extra outside door. Annual Rent JD3500.

Please call between 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Tel.: 5665711 or 5679676 or 079-523459

Inter-Continental voted Best Business Hotel

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL has been voted Best Business Hotel Chain in Europe, the Inter-Continental Dubai has been voted Best Business Hotel in the Middle East and the Inter-Continental London has been voted Best Business Hotel in the U.K.

These are the results of the Business Traveller Reader Survey from Opinion Research Corporation International.

Mr. John O'Carroll, General Manager of the Hotel Inter-Continental London and Mr. John Wright, Area President Europe represented the Hotels and received the awards at the 1998 Business Traveller Awards luncheon, which took place this year at The Savoy earlier in October.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Lose color
- 5 Sacred book
- 10 Joker
- 14 Landed
- 15 River's end, often
- 16 Hedgepodge
- 17 Tempt fate
- 20 Current unit
- 21 Santa's team
- 22 Cloverleaf element
- 24 Fixed
- 25 Brew house
- 28 Moo juice
- 30 Cutting into cubes
- 35 Arabian garments
- 37 Sainly glow
- 39 Use crayons
- 40 Reach the very end
- 43 Two under par
- 44 Victory!
- 45 Hobble
- 46 Spirited horses
- 48 Draws a bead on
- 50 Pop
- 51 Apollo astronaut
- 52 Grissom
- 53 Business VIPs
- 55 School kids
- 60 Equates
- 64 Goes for broke
- 66 Prayer closer
- 67 Police blotter entry
- 68 Kin of rats
- 69 Take five
- 70 "Revenge of the ..."
- 71 Private school, briefly

DOWN

- 1 Pop
- 2 College grad.
- 3 Speak imperfectly
- 4 Knockout gas
- 5 Arty
- 6 Swelling retardant
- 7 Stout or bock, e.g.
- 8 Country roadways
- 9 Begrudged
- 10 Heartless
- 11 Lotion additive
- 12 Mature
- 13 Go-getter
- 18 Trolley car
- 19 Lead on
- 23 Mickey Mouse's dog
- 25 Puts out a call for
- 26 German WW II sub
- 27 Insignia
- 29 Swedish currency
- 31 Monk's hood
- 32 Greek epic
- 33 Jean Baker (Marilyn Monroe)
- 34 Love of money
- 36 One-and-only
- 38 Room at the top
- 41 Door stops
- 42 Living on the street
- 47 Bronze skin
- 49 Make dirty
- 52 Purlined
- 54 Economize
- 55 Hollywood leader
- 56 Domesticated
- 57 Small guitars, briefly
- 58 Fender Imperfection
- 59 Agitate
- 61 Abu Dhabi
- 62 French resort city
- 63 Sloop element
- 65 I've ... it!

PLAN ALOHA DICE
LAVA MOVER JIGOR
USED EVERT ANNO
STRAWBERRY LOND
EAR AERIE
HAISLE STANDEES
IDEAS THAI
PEACHES AND CREAM
MAWS HASTA
MASSEURS JITTER
ASTER GUM
CHERRYSTONE CLAM
ALVA ICING AIDA
WEEP PANEL LEAS
SYNE STARE MUMS

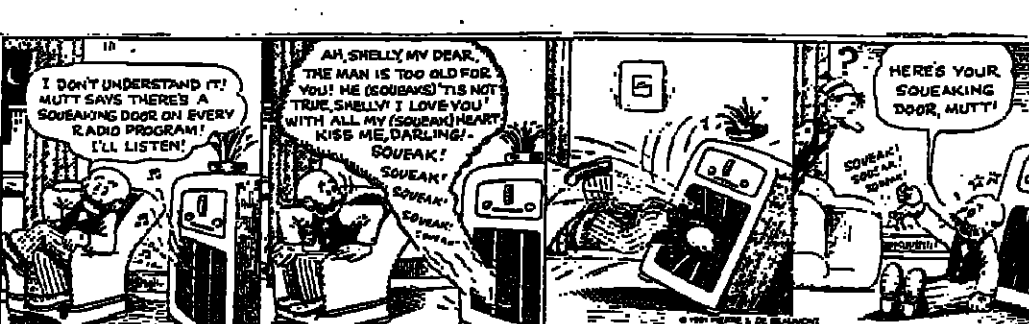
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 24/10/98 18:36									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.6390	0.9222	1.3377	118.04	1.5440	1622.30	1.8480	5.4825
DE Mark	0.6101	-	0.3611	0.8162	72.02	0.9418	989.51	1.1274	3.3507
GB Sterling	1.6885	2.7678	-	2.2587	199.36	2.6070	2739.25	3.1203	9.2741
CH Franc	0.7476	1.2243	0.4423	-	88.22	1.1534	1211.85	138.04	4.1029
JP Yen	0.0085	1.3873	0.6012	1.1323	-	1.3069	13.73	156.42	4.6491
CA Dollar	0.6477	1.0485	0.3799	0.8519	1.31	-	1037.76	1.1829	3.5160
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0100	0.3648	0.8824	1375.89	0.9514	-	11.39	3.3846
NL Guilder	0.6411	88.67	0.3203	72.39	63.84	0.8363	877.63	-	2.9713
FR Franc	0.1621	0.2984	0.1078	24.3500	21.47	0.2811	33.64	33.6400	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7503	0.3770	3.6405	0.3010	3.6727	1501.00	3.4095
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2896	0.5317	5.1347	0.4245	5.1891	2117.07	4.8089
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1891	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0803	0.98	400.25	0.9091
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.9808	9.9485	-	9.66	0.7885	9.74	3981.75	9.0445
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0302	1.0302	-	0.0827	1.01	412.31	0.9365
Kuwait Dinar	3.3223	2.3555	12.4995	1.2624	12.09	-	12.20	4986.71	0.9365
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0206	0.9912	0.0820	-	408.69	0.9263
Lebanese/1000	0.67	0.4724	2.4985	0.2511	2.4254	0.2005	2.4468	-	2.2715
Egyptian	0.2933	0.2079	1.1000	0.1106	1.0678	0.0883	1.0772	440.24	-

Energy									
Oils	Last	revised							
Brent	0.00	0.00							
W. Texas	14.02	13.96							
Bonny	0.00	0.00							
Dubai	12.48	12.45							
UL Gas	138.00	138.00							

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4372	0.15792	0.35696	31.501				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.44641	0.16125	0.36455	32.1668				
KW Dinar	3.3223	5.44662	1.96773	4.4484	392.465				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.34972	1.57109	3.65114	313.381				
CY Pound	2.0544	3.3672	1.2163	2.7482	242.501				

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-1-					
Cncy Month	Months	Months	Months	Year					
USD	5.2197	5.2092	4.9694	4.7500					
GBP	7.3922	7.1328	6.8763	6.5653					
JPY	0.3367	0.3989	0.4406	0.4678					
DEM	3.5000	3.5625	3.5303	3.4975					
FRF	3.5000	3.4997	3.3994	1.4813					
CHF	1.1747	3.5781	3.5313	3.5078					
ITL	4.6440	4.3490	3.9070	-					

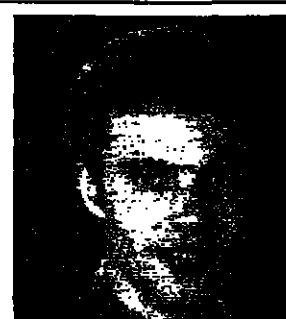
Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls			
New York	DOW JONES	8452.29	-0.85	8531.34	8426.81	8533.14			
New York	S&P 500	1070.67	-7.81	1078.48	1067.43	1078.48			
London	FT-SE 100	5217.1	-12.8	5238.3	5169.9	5229.9			
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	14144.7	-150.86	14523.5	14042.6	14295.6			
Paris	CAC 40	3393.76	-27.16	3415.56	3358.34	3420.92			
Frankfurt	DAX	4451.09	-3.19	4491.05	4427.37	4454.28			

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery		
Coffee (c/lbs)	106.08	Spot		
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1950	Spot		
Sugar (\$/ton)	222	Spot		
Wheat (\$/ton)	122	Spot		
Soya (c/lbs)	25.14	Spot		
Tea (c/lbs)	125	Spot		
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot		
Rice (\$/ton)	395	Spot		

Austrian Airlines appoints new sales manager for Jordan

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES appointed Heimo Gradischnig as sales manager for Jordan as of Oct. 1st, 1998. Gradischnig enjoys wide experience to serve Austrian Airlines travellers and Jordanian travel agents.



THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Lose color
- 5 Sacred book
- 10 Joker
- 14 Landed
- 15 River's end, often
- 16 Hedgepodge
- 17 Tempt fate
- 20 Current unit

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Philippines ambassador describes employment offices as 'big problem'

AMMAN — The Philippines Embassy in Amman is currently working on a comprehensive survey to determine the exact number of Filipinos working in Jordan to solve the problem of foreign labour working without permits in the Kingdom. However, he appealed to the concerned Jordanian authorities to find a permanent, final and comprehensive solution to the "employment offices" which act as mediators in bringing workers from outside.

The ambassador said the offices sometimes coordinate with employment offices in Manila and bring in workers, who are under the legal age, in an illegitimate way. Noting that the offices constitute a big problem for the embassy, the ambassador called for organising and involving them in carrying out the responsibility.

According to the ambassador, issuance of work and residence permits for Filipino workers is mostly handled or deliberately mismanaged by the employment offices. He said that Filipino workers encounter difficult and sometimes hard conditions upon their arrival in the country. "There is no law or list of regulations that organise the work of these offices as to the right of the workers and there is no home to house the workers for few days during the transition period either at the beginning or when moving from one workplace to another," he added.

The ambassador renewed his demand to give protection to women who are physically abused by the employment offices noting that, according to embassy sources, there are five offices in the Kingdom and the same number in Manila. "Often, they are branches that com-

plement each other in Amman and Manila," he said.

He pointed out that the embassy is strenuously seeking to rectify the situation of all the Filipino workers who are estimated to be around 3,000 persons. The ambassador indicated that the number of Filipinos coming to Jordan to work has gradually dropped since the embassy, opened last April. In the past when there was no embassy the number used to be 50 persons per month.

Asked why the embassy does not issue new passports instead of lost ones, the ambassador said such a process is not easy as a police report is required in addition to many other documents of identification. He stressed that the Jordanian constitution does not allow seizing the passports of others against their will noting that employers and employment offices seize the passport of the Filipino worker upon arrival at the airport.

Hashem Sabbagh, secretary general of the Ministry of Interior, appealed to diplomatic missions, that have to do with foreign labour present in Jordan, to cooperate with the ministry to rectify the status of the workers in the Kingdom.

He indicated that there could be cases that require the diplomatic missions to issue travel documents or even passports and to deport the violators.

Sabbagh also urged the missions to help limit negative behaviour by foreign workers, that run against the norms and traditions of the Kingdom. He urged informing the concerned authorities about cases of malpractices or cheating in recruiting foreign workers (Al-Dustour).

Russia crisis sends Dubai trade into a spin

DUBAI (R) — A bankrupt textile trader has fled. Electronics shops are pulling down their shutters and banks are concerned about their clients' exposure.

The main cause for the upheaval in Dubai's bustling reexport business community is Russia and its financial crisis.

Moscow traders, who have been largely responsible for the huge take-off in business in the United Arab Emirates' commercial hub in the 1990s, are evaporating as the economic crisis at home means their roubles buy far less abroad.

Dubai's ubiquitous textile and electronics traders, who rely on high turnover and low margins, are feeling the squeeze.

Banks say they are unharmed so far, but are worried their clients in the two sectors, which account for more than 10 billion dirhams (\$2.7 billion) in annual turnover, could be vulnerable.

"The textiles, toys, electronics and foodstuffs sectors are feeling the pinch of the rouble and southeast Asia. A few over-extended people have been burnt. But big banks know their customers well and should cope," said a Dubai bank manager.

"We are concerned it will affect certain segments of the textile trade," Ashok Sawlani, secretary of the Textile Manufacturers Association, told Reuters, adding that the industry's latest casualty was a direct result of the Russian crisis.

He said a small trader, who had given credit to Russian buyers, fled the country in mid-September leaving about five million dirhams in debt when his clients could not pay.

And more closures could be in store for the 400 textile wholesalers dotted along the banks of the emirate's creek.

"In good times the Russian trade made up roughly 30-35 per cent of the business, but this has declined to 20-25 per cent in recent months. In September and October I'd say it accounted for only five per cent," Sawlani said, adding that textiles worth seven billion dirhams passed through the emirate every year.

Some of the city's hotels are also feeling the pinch.

"There has been a tremendous drop in Russian business. It is 25 per cent of what it was two months ago," said a hotel manager.

Apartment hotels, like his, cater mainly to what they call Russian business tourists, who visit the emirate with wads of \$100 bills to take advantage of low import duties and buy cheap electronics and other consumer goods for sale back home.

But since mid-August, when Russia's financial crisis kicked in and the rouble plummeted, business has evaporated.

"We practically have no flights at all to Moscow now. They have stopped completely," said Ibrahim Chehab, the airport cargo manager in neighbouring emirate Sharjah. "Before two months ago we had three to four flights a day to Moscow." Statistics from the airport, which until recently rated the Russian capital among its most important freight destinations, show total exports fell 53 per cent year-on-year in September to 5,359 tonnes. In August exports slid 45 per cent.

Airlines operating from Dubai say the cargo load to Moscow has been reduced to a mere trickle since August.

Latest data show Russia provided the most tourists to Dubai in 1996 with 155,000, up from some 1,500 in 1992. Many tourists also enter Dubai — a city of 700,000 — through other emirates.

Hisham Al Shirawi, who chairs a group of 24 electronics distributors representing 150 brands, said the fall in the number of Russian cus-

tomers had been a long time coming.

"Their effect on the consumer electronics market has been enormous," he said, adding that purchases by Russians had, at times, made up more than 80 per cent of total consumer electronics sales.

But rouble weakness, higher Russian import taxes and direct marketing by some manufacturers had gradually eroded volumes.

"The decline started at the end of 1995 and continued through 1996 and 1997. It is taking clear shape right now, but we hope that this is the trough," Shirawi said.

He put the drop between 1995 and 1996 at 10 to 15 per cent and at 20 per cent between 1996 and 1997. "It's been more or less the same — 10 to 15 per cent — down between 1997 and 1998," Shirawi said the repercussions were serious, as dealers worked on narrow margins, relying on high turnover and credit lines from distributors to survive. "So such a change in demand gives them a very big blow. Some have gone out of business, and you will see a few more between now and December." He estimated annual consumer electronics turnover at 3.5-4.0 billion dirhams, down from 5.5 billion three years ago.

Fewer Russian visitors have meant fewer foreign exchange transactions in a market which had seen the number of money changers soar in the past few years.

"It has affected a segment of our business — the buying of foreign currencies and of travellers cheques," said Niyaz Ali, UAE manager of the Thomas Cook Al Rostamani Exchange Co.

"That has come down substantially, by 60-70 per cent. But the overall impact on our business is about 10 per cent." These are tough times for Dubai's reexporters, but the hardened traders used to the vagaries of international commerce say they are already hunting down new markets.

"The business will go on," says an optimistic Sawlani.

"Nothing continues forever... The bottom line is we won't die, one way or other we will open up some new markets, we will find some hungry people somewhere and feed them."

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Saturn's coming into your sign today, bringing a practicality to your interactions. Instead of moving on a whim, you'll be thinking about whether it's going to be profitable or a financial drain. It's also time to start a new exercise programme, or get back on your budget. If you do what Saturn suggests, you'll end up in good shape.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Go run, play, see new sights, take your sweetheart on an adventure. You can look deeply into each other's eyes just as easily in a locale far from home. It could be even more exciting. This excursion also doesn't have to be very expensive, either. Romance is what you're after, not glitz.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The job you're doing requires more supplies, or some other expenditure. There's not quite enough to go around. Others look to you for guidance. Where will you get the money? You're going to have to get creative, and possibly ask for advice. A sibling or close neighbour is your best option.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) You may be feeling light-headed today, as if conditions are sweeping you off your feet. It's a little scary. There's a lot to learn, but you're up for it in more ways than one. If you're with the right person, go ahead and surrender. Let the other person set the agenda, and you be the support to make sure everything goes well.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It's a busy day for you, and it looks like you're following somebody else's agenda. Hopefully you share the enthusiasm, because it looks like you'll be doing most of the work. Does your mate have a list of stuff lined up for you? Well, you promised you'd get around to it someday, and guess what? That's now!

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You aren't used to being in the spotlight, and you may not really like it, but it looks like things will have a happy ending. Go along with a person who thinks you can make it, no matter what you try. That's the kind of support you need right now, and if you look around, you can find it.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Invite company over today and everyone will have a wonderful time. How about all those people you've promised to have over? This would be a fabulous day for it. By the way, it's OK to invite people who could help your career. It's not exactly schmoozing if they're really your friends. But it is deductible.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Is there someone you've known for years with whom you've had a falling out? If you bring up the subject, will he or she reject you, or will you establish a friendship that hasn't seemed possible? The latter possibility is definitely worth going for. Take small steps and you can make it happen.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There's a bit of romantic tension going on. You and this other person need to settle an old score, but that's OK. It's possible now. You've learned a lot in the time you've been apart, and you can put that knowledge to good use. Offer compromise, but make sure your own position is clear.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You're looking good, with a kind of charismatic quality. If you notice you're attracting new people, that's why. They want you to do things with them, too. It's weird, and you may not be used to this, but you should let it happen. You've got the time and the money, so go have the fun.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) People are putting demands on your time. Everyone wants you to do something, and some of them are downright pushy. Don't resist. In fact, do just the opposite. Offer to do whatever is requested, cheerfully, as if you really enjoy it. It'll take them by surprise, and give you the advantage.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) If you've set a goal that looks unachievable don't despair. Your friends would like to help, so let them know what they can do. You wish you could do everything all by yourself, of course, but where's the fun in that? It'll be more like a party if there are other people involved.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN, JORDAN											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 24/10/1998											
PART	12 MONTHS HIGH	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	16.7	0.98	39	1390	283395	204.00	204.00	-
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.3	4.64	8	4828587	7484266	1.52	1.51	-0.01
S	355.500	170.000	BANK OF JORDAN	10.0	0.00	15	5450	5884	1.07	1.07	-
S	355.500	170.000	MID-EAST TRV. BK.	62.4	0.00	12	7200	6756	.90	.95	+.05
S	355.500	170.000	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.4	7.01	6	1950	2893	1.50	1.48	-0.02
S	355.500	170.000	THE HOUSING BK.	16.9	3.75	30	14404	39210	2.67	2.67	-
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. KUMAIT BANK	1.1	0.00	6	1914	3358	1.70	1.78	+.08
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. GULF BANK	9	0.00	14	8800	5207	6.00	.59	-0.01
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB JIB. INV. BK.	42.3	2.40	1	200	416	2.00	2.08	+.08
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.9	0.00	9	4835	7536	1.55	1.56	+.01
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. INV. FIN. BK.	21.8	3.32	4	6910	9812	1.42	1.42	-
S	355.500	170.000	PHILADEL. TRV. BK.	P	0.00	30	69445	43495	.62	.62	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 267.83	CHG: +0.05	174	4951285	7892267			
S	355.500	170.000	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.9	5.00	2	188370	565110	3.10	3.00	-0.10
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.1	0.00	1	150	285	1.92	1.90	-0.02
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 126.00	CHG: -1.14	3	188520	565395			
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.3	5.73	6	2000	2870	1.42	1.44	+.02
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.7	5.78	6	5450	9535	1.07	1.17	+.10
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. PORTFOLIO	27.5	0.00	7	3250	2227	.66	.69	+.03
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.3	2.13	7	2300	4324	1.88	1.88	-
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. EDUCATION	19.8	0.00	1	2250	1935	2.67	.86	-
S	355.500	170.000	UNIFIED CO.	4.9	10.00	6	1300	1432	1.10	1.10	-
S	355.500	170.000	UNION LAB. DEV.	9	0.00	1	500	235	.48	.47	-0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 104.34	CHG: +0.23	34	17050	22558			
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.9	0.00	33	121400	135368	1.07	1.12	+.05
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.3	5.68	1	1000	35200	3.53	3.52	-0.01
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.9	8.70	3	620	6336	10.27	10.22	-0.05
S	355.500	170.000	JORDAN TANNING	7.9	8.16	3	347	1697	4.90	4.90	-
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. HORSTED HILLS	7.0	0.00	3	4000	20000	5.60	5.70	+.10
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB PHARM. MARF.	7.0	2.96	20	6002	15198	2.51	2.53	+.02
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.4	10.00	2	2300	2300	1.00	1.00	-
S	355.500	170.000	JORDAN DART	5.9	10.48	1	50	133	2.65	2.65	-
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. PILES MANUF.	8.7	9.52	4	950	950	.05	1.05	+.10
S	355.500	170.000	DAR ALDAMA DV. INV.	6.1	5.93	3	370	1854	4.95	5.05	+.10
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB ALUM. IND.	12.9	14.37	2	180	783	1.74	1.74	-
S	355.500	170.000	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	12.5	0.00	4	750	1257	.36	.37	+.01
S	355.500	170.000	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	18	14550	1129	.49	.49	-
S	355.500	170.000	NATIONAL INDOS.	9	0.00	1	100	38	.39	.38	-0.01
S	355.500	170.000	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	3	950	285	.30	.30	-
S	355.500	170.000	UNIV. CHEM. INDOS.	10.4	7.84	1	150	153	1.01	1.02	+.01
S	355.500	170.000	NATL. CARB. WIRK. AFAC	20.0	0.00	5	800	513	.64	.64	-
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. SULPHUR IND.	7.2	0.00	15	13800	5254	1.37	.38	-0.01
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	12.9	9.13	8	2700	3169	1.18	1.17	-0.01
S	355.500	170.000	UNIV. HOUS. INDOS.	9.9	9.48	6	940	582	.62	.62	-
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. INDOS. RESOURCES	9	0.00	11	5600	2614	.48	.46	-0.02
S	355.500	170.000	NATL. CELESTITE	8.3	9.47	20	147300	173284	1.18	1.18	-
S	355.500	170.000	JOR. NEW CARB. CO.	8.9	15.87	1	300	389	.62	.63	+.01
S	355.500	170.000	EL - SAY READY WEAR	42.5	0.00	1	46900	53242	1.18	1.18	-
S	355.500	170.000	TRTL. TOBACCO	7.4	5.56	13	6100	6416	1.04	1.05	+.01
S	355.500	170.000	NATL. ALUMINIUM	32.2	0.00	13	11850	7789	.65	.65	-
S	355.500	170.000	MID-EAST COMPLEX	9.4	0.00	9	6950	3634	.52	.52	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 71.88	CHG: -0.33	207	448937	697592			
GRAND TOTAL				INDEX: 161.31	CHG: +0.12	418	5605792	9177812			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 24/10/1998											
N	1.050	.790	REPORT & FIN. SER. TSE	10.2	0.00	6	11250	6188	.79	.80	+.01
N	1.000	.700	JOR. INT. INSURANCE CO	8	0.00	1	50	41	.81	.81	-
N	.950	.700	AMMAN INSURANCE	8	0.00	2	15000	12750	.81	.85	+.04
N	.480	.340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	1	1000	370	.36	.37	+.01
N	.790	.500	UNION INV.	9	0.00	1	250	135	.53	.54	+.01
N	.820	.510	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	20	96350	12276	.22	.22	-
N	.220	.100	CENTURY INV. GROUP	9	0.00	2	750	766	1.02	1.18	+.16
N	.220	.090	JOR. INDOS. MATCH-JENCO	9	0.00	1	1000	130	.13	.13	-
N	.430	.200	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	25.3	0.00	4	1800	386	.21	.22	+.01
N	.580	.220	NATL. WOLF INC. HANICO	9	0.00	17	16900	39166	.22	.24	+.02
N	.690	.480	MID-EAST PERSH. 90	8	0.00	10	13700	5211	.48	.49	+.01

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U.S. player Venus Williams receives a service from French Mary Pierce during the semi-final match of the Kremlin Cup WTA \$1 million event in Moscow. Williams lost the game 6-2, 2-6, 0-6 (AFP photo)

Seles to face Pierce in Moscow final

MOSCOW (AFP) — Monica Seles beat France's Sandrine Testud in straight sets to advance to the final of the Kremlin Cup here Saturday.

World No. 6 and fifth seed Seles downed seventh-seeded Testud 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) to earn the right to meet another Frenchwoman, Mary Pierce, in Sunday's final of the \$1 million WTA Tour event.

Testud made several crucial mistakes in the first set virtually handing it to Seles in 33 minutes, although she fought back in the second, but failed to clinch the tie break.

Pierce, seeded five, took advantage of a below par top-seeded Venus Williams who had to call for medical assistance to tend an injured knee.

Williams had started brightly, racing to 6-2 win in the first set, but it was all downhill for the American from there on in as she capitulated 6-2, 6-0.

Despite her injury Williams insisted on playing through to the death and received loud applause from the Moscow crowd for her efforts.

Qadissieh take on Al Faisali in Premier League's 13th round

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali will meet Al Qadissieh as the country's leading soccer event enters its 13th week Sunday.

Only the top three standings of the Premier League Championship remained unchanged last week as Al Faisali beat Al Ahli 4-2 while their opponents Al Qadissieh moved up two places to fourth after a 1-0 win over Al Jazireh.

The other advances were Al Arabi who moved up two places to 7th after a surprising 2-0 win over Shabab Al Hussein.

Al Hussein next face Al Arabi, while seventh-placed Al Ahli play Al Ramtha, and last placed Kufusoum meet Shabab Al Hussein.

During the 12th round, Al Hussein remained third after a goalless draw with Al Ramtha who dropped to fifth.

Titleholders Al Wihdat beat Kufusoum 2-0 but remained second and face Al Jazireh Monday in the last of the week's

matches.

The top ten teams are playing two matches a week to end the fourth and last of the season's soccer competitions on Nov. 20.

Al Wihdat are looking for their 5th consecutive Premier League title after winning the season-opening fourth Cup Winners' Cup.

Al Faisali took the second of the season's four soccer championships when they won their record 10th Jordan Cup.

Kufusoum, playing in the prestigious league for the third year running, made history when they clinched their first ever major title by beating Al Hussein to win the country's third title — the Jordan Football Association (JFA) Shield.

Al Wihdat, who have won the Cup and Cup Winners Cup in the last two years and the Premier League in the last four.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	12	11	1	1	34	7	33
Wihdat	12	10	1	1	30	10	31
Hussein	12	5	2	5	10	8	17
Qadissieh	12	4	4	4	17	18	16
Ramtha	12	4	4	4	13	15	16
S. Al Hussein	12	3	5	4	12	18	14
Arabi	12	3	3	6	15	24	12
Ahli	12	2	3	7	10	17	9
Jazireh	12	2	3	7	7	16	9
Kufusoum	12	1	5	6	8	23	8

Embattled gymnast might seek Australia Cup escape

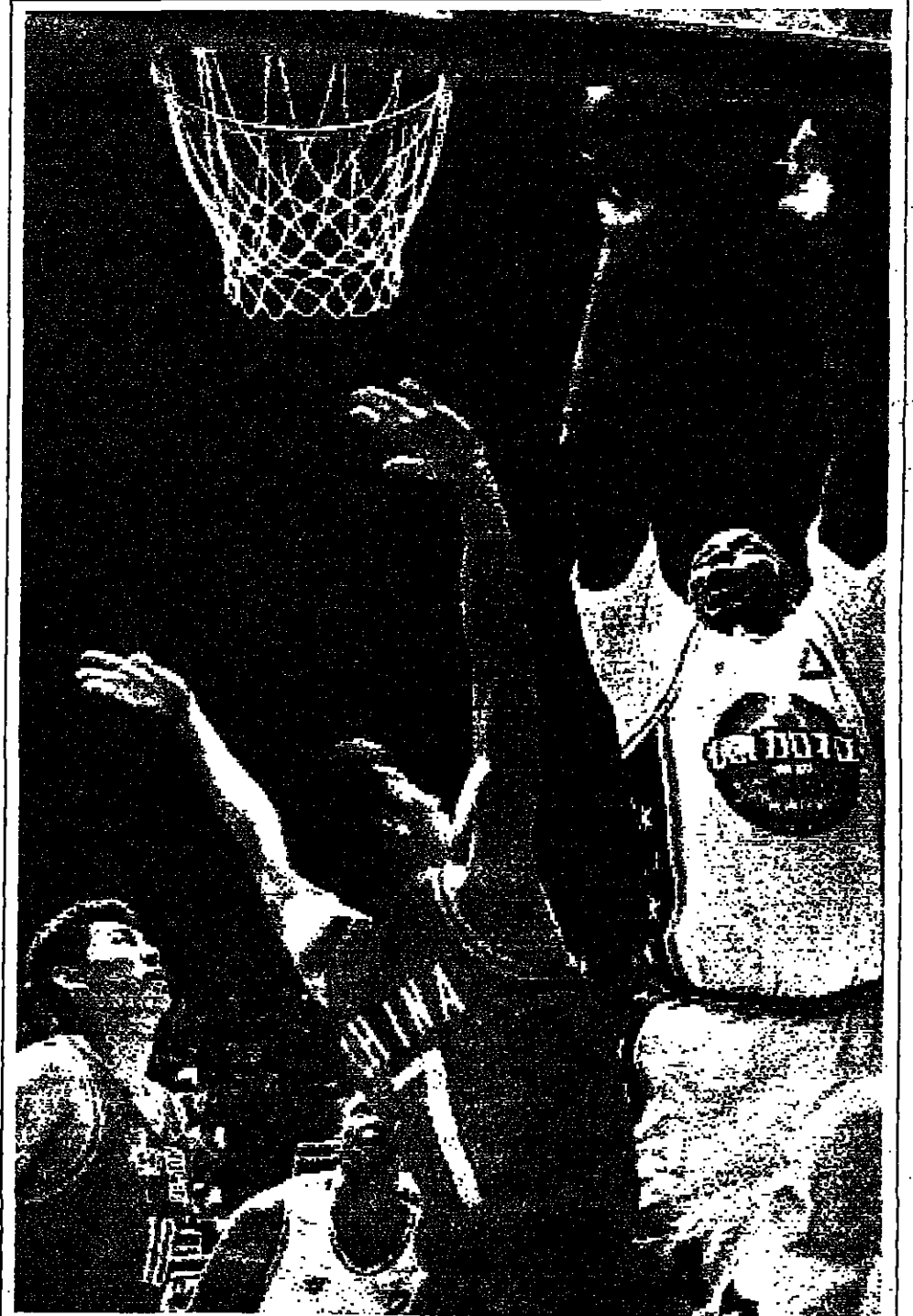
HOUSTON (AFP) — American gymnast Dominique Moceanu, who has run away from her parents and asked for a court declaration as an adult, is considering a trip to the Australia Cup to escape the chaos.

Brad Hunt, agent for the 17-year-old who was the youngest member of the 1996 U.S. Olympic gold medal team, said Moceanu is considering competing at the event after trying to get settled in new surroundings.

"She is training," Hunt said. "She is trying to decide if it might be a good idea to go to the Cup and get away from Houston for a while."

The 2000 Sydney Olympic hopeful charged that her father Dumitru Moceanu mismanaged her finances, including \$1 million in earnings. Dumitru denied the claims.

A hearing is set for November 11 but Moceanu's lawyer, Roy Moore, said she does not plan to return home no matter what happens.



X-NBA Legends Team star Moses Malone (R) drives to the basket against China National Team's Liu Qiang (7) during their final game in a four-game series in China. The China National Team won 85-70 in a game fraught with heated exchanges between the U.S. team and officials (AFP photo)

The debate begins: Are these Yankees the best team ever?

SAN DIEGO (AP) — There is no true superstar among them, no one close in stature to a Reggie. Rose or Ruth.

Not a certain Hall of Famer in the bunch, not like DiMaggio, Mantle or Bench. No pitcher likely to win the Cy Young Award, no slugger who finished in the top 35 in home runs.

Not even a single player elected to start in the All-Star game.

In the end, there was a much better way to explain the greatness of these New York Yankees.

"The one thing I would love to have people think about is there's no one name that comes to mind, but the team itself," manager Joe Torre said.

And now, the debate begins: Are these Yankees, after winning their record 24th World Series championship with a sweep of the San Diego Padres and finishing with an overall record of 125-50, the best team ever?

Better than Murderers' Row, the Big Red Machine or the swingin' Oakland A's?

"I think that will probably be talked about forever," Series MVP Scott Brosius said. "The comparisons will go on and on, and maybe nobody will have a definite answer for the best team of all time."

"But you can look at this year and say we had the best single season of any other team, and that's a great accomplishment."

Fitting, too, that Brosius won the MVP award after going 8-for-17 with six RBIs in four games. Steady but not flashy, the third baseman spent most of the season batting ninth — just another player doing his job.

And in a season that brought baseball some truly huge numbers, from Mark McGwire's 70 home runs to Cal Ripken's 2,632 consecutive games to Kerry Wood's 20 strikeouts, the Yankees posted one that may remain for a long time — 125 wins.

The Yankees' 714 winning percentage was an appropriate figure, seeing how it matched the Babe's home run total, and was the highest in the majors since the 1927 Yankees led by Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

"27 Yankees, they may have a better club, but we had the best record," Torre said. "To me, that was the standard that I was looking to pass because the Yankees — more important to have a Yankee record than anything else."

"You look at the Oakland A's clubs that won a few world championships in a row and the Cincinnati club in

'76 that was always a standard for me. I think we have better pitching than they have. We have to take a backseat to no one in my lifetime."

New York's second title in three years even caused owner George Steinbrenner to get weepy in the clubhouse.

"There has never been a better team than this one," he said. "We created something truly special here."

Hard to imagine now that the Yankees' season began in a shaky manner in Southern California.

Expected by many to rack up a big win total in this expansion year, New York lost its first two games at Anaheim. A loss at Oakland gave the Yankees their first 0-3 start since 1985 and prompted speculation that Torre's job might be in jeopardy.

The next day, they became the last team in the majors to hit a home run in beating Oakland. And pretty much after that, the whole year became one big highlight reel.

By the end of April, they were in first place with a 17-6 record. The month brought an unexpected event — a \$500 expansion joint fell into the loge level at Yankee Stadium,

causing two games to be rescheduled and another to be moved to Shea

Stadium.

David Wells' perfect game and a wild brawl with Baltimore marked May, and Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez won his major league debut in June. In July, eventual AL batting champion Bernie Williams homered in his return after missing 31 games because of an injured knee.

The Yankees went on to become the first team ever to clinch a playoff spot in August, a month in which they set a major league record by leading in 48 straight games.

September saw them break the AL record with 114 wins and the emergence of rookie Shane Spencer, who hit three grand slams in a month.

New York began its 11-2 run through the postseason with a three-game sweep of Texas in the division series, though there was ominous news — Darryl Strawberry had colon cancer. The slugger underwent surgery and his teammates embroidered his No. 39 on their hats.

The Yankees' only real trouble came in the American League championship series, when they trailed two games to one to Cleveland. But El Duque rescued them in Game 4, and New York never lost again.

Haas in final after Rios injured

LYON (AFP) — World No. 2 Marcelo Rios was forced to retire from his semi-final match against Tommy Haas in the Lyon Grand Prix ATP Tournament here Saturday with an injured left thigh.

The Chilean, seeded three, was behind 6-2, 7-0, 15-40 to the German, who was appearing in the

semi-final only after Pete Sampras had had to cry off their quarter-final encounter Friday with a bad back.

Haas will meet either fourth seed Alex Corretja or Wayne Ferreira in the \$725,000 event's Sunday final.

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	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	
	Nathan Lane & Lee Evans .. in MOUSE HUNT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	George Clooney & Nicole Kidman .. in THE PEACE MAKER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' Michael Douglas & Sean Penn .. in THE GAME Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Robert Redford .. in UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:15, 10:30	Watch out for the new play

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Flemmen's win makes history for Norway

SOLDEN, Austria (AFP) — Andrine Flemmen made history for Norway Saturday, becoming the first woman from her nation to win a World Cup giant slalom with victory in the opening event of the 1998-99 season.

Flemmen, 23, from Molde, held up under pressure after taking a first-run lead ahead of Olympic and world champion Deborah Compagnoni and Austria's dangerous Alexandra Meissnitzer, the Nagano Olympic silver medalist in the specialty.

The Scandinavian, whose best previous finish was third a year ago at Park City, Utah, put in a flawless effort in the afternoon run down the Rettenbach piste flagged with 47 gates to hold on to her winning margin posting a time of two minutes 15.05 seconds.

"I was hoping for a podium," said the overjoyed winner, whose ski nation had had to fight financially since the triumphs of the 1994 Lillehammer Games.

"We're a small team," said the chrome-blond Flemmen. "But we hope to get stronger. We don't have much money to spend these days."

Norway has been so cash-strapped that the team has only trained at home in the close season. "First place is unbelievable," said Flemmen. "I'm so happy."

While Norwegian men have won almost everything in sight during their alpine renaissance of the 1990s, the women's squad has lagged behind.

Flemmen becomes only the second Norwegian woman to win a World Cup race following victory by team-mate Helen Marken at

a home super-giant slalom in Kvitfjell in 1996.

Meissnitzer (2:15:31) kept the flag flying for the host nation on a day of changing weather in the Tirol with the morning session raced under clouds but sun shining for the afternoon run down the glacier course with a 3.048-metre-high start.

It was her third second-place finish in a GS.

The opening weekend of racing, which concludes Sunday with a men's giant slalom, will be the last for a month.

Teams then travel to North America for three weeks of competition before a return to Europe in early December at Val d'Isere, France.

Compagnoni (2:15:62), second after the first run, slipped to third in the final tally. The 28-year-old Italian has been suffering with back pains and was not even sure of competing in the season opener until midweek.

Compagnoni was more than pleased with the lowest rung on the first-race podium considering her fitness problems over the summer.

The Italian only began on-snow training in September, managing 10 days.

"I'm quite content," she said. "I look upon this race as some good training. The snow conditions were perfect for preparation."

In fourth was Frenchwoman Leila Picard on 2:15:62. She was trailed by a pair of Swiss — fifth-placed Sonja Nef (2:16:40) and Corinne Rey Bellet (2:17:06).

Swede Anna Ottosson finished seventh on 2:17:28, with Slovenian Spela Pretnar eighth and Regine Cavagnoud of France ninth.



Norway's Andrine Flemmen celebrates her victory in the giant slalom competition in Solden 24 October on the first day of the 33rd Alpine World Cup season. Austrian Alexandra Meissnitzer arrived second and Italian Deborah Compagnoni third (AFP photo)

Swede Pernilla Wiberg, the 1997 World Cup champion, did not start the race after falling and hitting her head during training on Friday. Wiberg was advised not to take the risk by her medical and coaching advisors.

Asian League Champions Handball Tournament

Kuwait's Kathema beat Al Ahli and face Qatar's Al Rayyan today

By Roulan Nahhas

AMMAN — Kuwait's Al Kathema overcame Jordan's Al Ahli 33-27 (17-15) Saturday ending their dream of another win in the 1st Asian League Champions Handball Tournament currently underway at the Sports Palace.

Al Ahli gave his opponent a hard time in the first 15 minutes of the first half with direct hits and some beautiful sliding by Ahli's Mouwafiq Fatch Allah.

But Al Ahli could not keep the pressure and had to retreat to the defence area leaving Al Kathema's left-handed Ali Murad countless chances to score.

Al Ahli felt the heat after they lost the first half after a good start with 15-17.

In the second half Al Ahli regained confidence and confused their opponent for a while but Al Kathema players eager for a win kept the pressure using Murad with his unstoppable shots.

Al Ahli's defence looked confused and scattered with no plan whatsoever to stop Kathema's Murad.

Kathema took advantage of the situation and ended the match with a 33-27 win to share the standings with Qatar's Rayyan but lead with goal differences.

Meanwhile in an earlier match Qatar's Al Rayyan overcame Iran's Zobohan 22-21 (8-10) after a breathless ending in which Al Rayyan was able to capture a precious win in the last seconds.

Kathema will play Rayyan in an exciting match and Al Ahli will play Al Salt Sunday.

Only five teams are taking part in the Oct. 20-27 event after China's Army team and UAE's Al Shareqah declined. The competing teams are Jordan's Al Salt and Al Ahli, Iran's Zobohan Asfahan, Qatar's Al Rayyan and Kuwait's Kathema.

Schedule of matches
Salt vs Ahli 4:00 p.m.
Rayyan vs Kathema 6:15 p.m.

Standings

Team	W	T	L	Pts
Kathema	2	-	-	4
Rayyan	2	-	-	4
Al Ahli	1	-	2	2
Zobohan	-	1	2	1
Salt	-	1	1	1

Organisers begin search for 2000 Games buses

SYDNEY (AFP) — Olympic organisers have begun the search for 3,350 buses and 4,500 drivers for the 2000 Sydney Games.

Olympics Minister Michael Knight, who is also Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) president, sent off a specially decorated bus on a tour of New South Wales to encourage bus companies to provide vehicles and drivers for the Games.

All companies and drivers will be paid. The campaign is being conducted by the Olympic Roads and Transport Authority (ORTA) and Bus 2000, a company formed to provide bus services for the Olympics and the Paralympic Games.

The Paralympics will need 840 buses, about half of which will be accessible by wheelchair.

"The only way the Olympic bus fleet will be formed is with the support of bus companies, buses and drivers," Knight said.

There will be no reduction in Sydney's regular bus services during the Games, although the school holidays in September 2000 will free up a number of transport vehicles.

Olympic chiefs confident Sydney Games will avoid new tax

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates said Saturday he expected the Sydney 2000 Games to avoid being hit by a new 10 per cent tax.

"I don't want to be over confident, but I've always thought that the matter would be resolved," Coates said after meeting new Sports Minister Jackie Kelly along with International Olympic Committee (IOC) board member Dr Jacques Rogge.

"I think it will be worked out, but I can understand too that the government has to be careful about the number of exemptions it gives," added Coates who is also senior vice-president to the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG).

"At the end of the day, certain warranties were given by the then federal government and the then state government as to our tax positioning in this country when we bid and so I can also understand why the IOC is entitled to be concerned about the introduction of a new tax."

Kelly reiterated remarks from federal Treasurer Peter Costello that a total exemption from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) due to be introduced 10 weeks before the 2000 Games would not be forthcoming but said most of the IOC's concerns had been allayed.

Kelly said concerns that there would be a \$200 million (\$120 million) blowout if the games were not GST-free were "exaggerated".

She said immediate past Olympic Games had all operated under a GST.

Dr Rogge observed that while the IOC would not intervene in the outcome, the matter would be discussed further.

"We are confident that the problems will be solved. We are very optimistic about that," he said.

"We cannot interfere in government's affairs but we believe there is strong support out there in Canberra for the games and we're quite sure that a solution will be found so that SOCOG can be enabled to have the best possible Olympic Games here in Sydney."

In general, Dr Rogge said planning and preparations were on track and the sale of tickets was a big task, "ambitious, but feasible" and one that would be better analysed during the IOC's next visit to Sydney in April, 1999.

Agassi advances to Czech semifinals

OSTRAVA (AFP) — Second-seeded Andre Agassi of the United States struggled past Swede Thomas Johansson here on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$975,000 Czech Indoor championships here.

Agassi, who has won more matches this year than anyone else on the ATP Tour, rallied to down eighth-seeded Johansson 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4 and earn a meeting with qualifier Wayne Black.

The Zimbabwean continued his surprise run of success in the tournament with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (8/10), 6-3 win over Martin Damm of the Czech Republic.

Seventh-seeded Thomas Enqvist beat Nicklas Kulti 6-3, 6-4 in an all-Swedish quarter-final and next faces Jan Krosiak of Slovakia who beat Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev 6-3, 6-0 in the late game.



Andre Agassi stretches to return to Thomas Johansson of Sweden in the quarters of the Czech Indoor tournament. Agassi beat the Swede 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-4 (AFP photo)

Hakkinen: Championship duel just business as usual

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Formula One championship leader Mika Hakkinen said Saturday he is treating the title-deciding Japan Grand Prix next week — the biggest race of his career — just like any other.

"Every Grand Prix this season I've been going to win," the Finnish McLaren driver told reporters during a promotional stop in Shanghai. "I'm not nervous at all."

Hakkinen must defend a four-point lead over Ferrari rival Michael Schumacher to claim his first world championship crown at Suzuka on November 1.

But he said he was going into the season finale as usual, albeit with "enormous preparation."

"I don't want to think about the pressure situation," he said. "When we go to Suzuka, it doesn't matter if I'm leading the race or running second. It just doesn't matter."

Asked to respond to Schumacher's public prediction earlier this week that he would steal away the championship, Hakkinen said competition from all the drivers would be intense.

The main goal is to "keep the car on the track" and avoid mistakes that could disqualify him, he said.

The 30-year-old would still become champion under Formula One rules even if he finished second behind Schumacher and both men ended the season level on 96 points.

The two drivers would be 7-7 in terms of race victories — but the Finn would beat the German 3-2 in second place finishes.

Hakkinen also said he was looking forward to China's first Formula One event next March 21 on the \$35 million track built in southern Zhuhai city.

To have a new circuit in a new country is "fantastic" he said, adding that it would create a challenge not only for the drivers but for the marketing and business end of the fast-growing sport.

The track, which seats 100,000 people, will be the site of the second Formula One event of 1999.

Hosting a Grand Prix event will also provide a great opportunity for

China, which he joked had "a much better chance" of producing great drivers in the future than Finland because of its huge population.

Finland is home to five million people compared to China's 1.2 billion.

But he acknowledged that auto racing is inherently expensive, making conditions for emerging competitors in the developing country difficult.

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NOTICE OF SALE

Date and Time of Sale: Tuesday, October 27, 1998 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: American Embassy Warehouse, Abdoun (Use the Back Gate)

Items to be sold: Office and residential furniture, appliances, equipment, vehicles and miscellaneous

Conditions of sale:

- Sale is conducted by sealed bid.
- All property is sold on as-is, where-is, non-returnable basis for cash payment without refund or warranty.
- Bid forms and list of lots will be available at time of sale.
- All items will be available for inspection at sale time.
- A deposit of 20% of the total bid is required at time of bid in cash JD only. This is strictly enforced.
- All bids must be deposited in lock box by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27.
- All bidders will be notified and deposit refunded to unsuccessful bidders by Wednesday-Thursday, October 28-29.
- All property must be paid for and removed by COB Thursday, October 29.
- If not removed by COB October 29, a storage fee of JD50,000 per day for each lot will be imposed.

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LONDRES (AFP) — A portrait of the late Princess Diana by Andy Warhol fetched \$175,183 at auction at Christie's on Friday, while Warhol's portrait of Prince Charles sold for less than half that. The two portraits, done in 1982, a year after the royal couple married, were purchased by anonymous bidders.

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